Guide to

275 SIVA STHALAMS

Glorified by Thevaram Hymns
(Pathigams)
of
Nayanmars



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by

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About the Author:

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His book on "The Path of Ramanuja", and "The Guide to 108 Divya Desams" in book form on the CD, has been well received in the religious circle.





Preface:

Tirth Yatras or pilgrimages have been an integral part of Hinduism. Pilgrimages are considered quite important by the ritualistic followers of Sanathana dharma. There are a few centers of sacredness, which are held at high esteem by the ardent devotees who dream to travel and worship God in these holy places. All these holy sites have some mythological significance attached to them. When people go to a temple, they say they go for Darsan – of the image of the presiding deity. The pinnacle act of Hindu worship is to stand in the presence of the deity and to look upon the image so as to see and be seen by the deity and to gain the blessings.

There are thousands of Siva sthalams- pilgrimage sites - renowned for their divine images. And it is for the Darsan of these divine images as well the pilgrimage places themselves - which are believed to be the natural places where Gods have dwelled - the pilgrimage is made. Notable of these are 275 Siva Sthalams, of whom Nayanmars have compiled Hymns – the Pathigams.

Though there are several reference books of these sthalams, this book of mine is brought out as a consolidated reference guide to the visiting pilgrims to these Siva sthalams, and dedicated to Lord Siva, our beloved God. An attempt is also made to develop this into a comprehensive source of information on Saivism, by presenting here some of the Basic Teachings, which form the core of Saivism - an important sect of Hinduism.

The information is compiled from several authentic sources, as well from learned scholars, Sivacharyas and priests at each shetram. Since several authors have translated the original text, a certain

degree of coincidence is likely to occur in my presentation with regard to the choice of words and phrases, which is not intentional.

"Om Namah Sivaya"

Tamarapu Sampath Kumaran



Siva and Saivism:

Of all the Hindu Gods none appealed to the emotions of a Hindu mind as much as Lord Siva, who dwells in the mountains bearing the trident. His third eye symbolizes, the all-knowing awareness of the very Brahman.

Although acknowledged as one of the Trinity Gods of Hinduism, He is Maheswara, to His followers representing the Trinity all by Himself, and His different aspects manifest themselves as the creator, preserver and destroyer of the worlds He create. Symbolically He is worshipped as Lingeswara, which name stands more for His creative prowess.

Siva is believed as a pre-Vedic God who was admitted into the Vedic Pantheon because of His immense popularity among many non-Aryan tribes.

In the Svetavatara Upanishad He was elevated to the status of Brahman, by the sage who composed it, after he had a vision of Lord Siva as the Absolute and Supreme Brahman.

As the perfect Yogi, He is credited with the source of all knowledge concerning the various yogas. Such was His prowess and divinity, that Lord Vishnu in His incarnation as Rama and Krishna, worshipped Him with great reverence.

Siva and His different Titles:

Siva is known by many names and titles. He is *Rudra*, the Red One, as the God of anger, feared by one and all. Since He dwells in Kailash, in the Himalayas, He is referred to as *Kailaspathi*. As Purusha, He is Iswara Himself. As the Lord of the beings, He is known as *Pasupathinath.* As the husband of Uma, the Mother Goddess, He is known as *Umapathi* and *Parvathipathi.*

As the bearer of the sacred river Ganges, He is known as *Gangadhar*. And because of His matted hair, He is called as *Jatadhari*. As a perfect being He is *Siddheshwara*. With His Trident in His hands, He became popular as heroic and fearless *Trisuladhari.* As the world teacher, He is referred to as *Dakhshinamurthi* by Adi Shankara in his famous book, "Hymns to Dakhshinamurthi".

Siva as Dakshinamurti is another beautiful concept. He becomes the cosmic preceptor. His chinmudra where the right thumb and first finger meet while the other three stand away has great philosophical significance. The thumb represents God; the forefinger the individual self, and the other fingers are delusion, toil and egoism. The meaning is that the individual self unites with the Cosmic self, if relieved of these three doshas.

Lord Siva is popularly known as *Sankara*. The word Sankara is made up of two words, namely "*sanka*" and "*hara*". Sanka means doubt and hara means dispeller or destroyer -He who dispels or destroys all doubts. He rules over our disbeliefs and hesitations and establishes firm faith in us through his compelling nature. By dispelling our doubts and establishing faith, He destroys all our bondages.

To the connoisseurs of art, He is well known as *Nataraja*, the master of all dance forms.

He was dearer not only to Gods but also to demons like Ravana and Bhasmasura. He gave several boons to His ardent followers out of His unbound love and in the process invited great trouble for Himself and for others. Ever willing to help those who are in distress, He saved the worlds and all the Gods by partaking Halahal, the poison that emanated during the churning of the ocean by Devas and Asuras in their efforts to obtain Amrita.

Combining in Himself both the male and female aspects of creation, He earned the popular name of *Ardhanariswara*. As rider of the Bull Nandi, He is known to the world as *Nandiswara*.

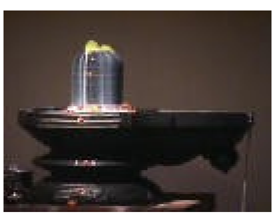
His names are endless. So does His popularity.

"OM Nama Sivaya": according to some is the same as Panchakshara.



Siva is believed to reside high up on snowy mountain ranges. Image of Siva in his physical form presents him as a soothing meditative figure. His ornaments are not gold and precious stones. He wears a necklace made of skulls signifying his role as destructor. He has snakes coiling all over his body and his hair is matted and long extending over the whole sky and space. The crescent moon adorns his crown, signifying his control on the time cycle. (Amavasya and Pournami). He smears his body with ashes and wears a tiger skin and elephant skin. He has a third eye on his forehead, which is the source of knowledge and wisdom. The holy Ganges is imprisoned in his flowing locks. In his two arms he holds the Trisulam (the three prongs representing the three gunas of sattva, tamas and rajas) in one and Damaru in the other. His vahana is Nandi, who is also his chief disciple to whom Siva passed on all his immense knowledge in arts.

Siva worship in temples:



In temples Siva is worshiped as Siva-linga, which are mostly made of stone, consisting of three parts. The lowest portion in the shape of a square symbolises Brahma (Creation). The middle part in the shape of an octagon symbolises Vishnu (Maintenance). These two portions are embedded inside a pedestal. The cylindrical portion projecting from the pedestal symbolises Siva (Destruction).

In Siva-linga, God is sought to be represented as having "a form" as well as "without" form - "Saguna" as well as "nirguna". The three-fold principle of creation, protection and destruction is conveyed in this form.

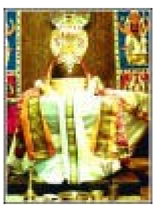
The linga may either be carved or natural. The natural lingas are usually collected from the riverbed. A Siva-linga is bathed, offered flower garlands, covered with milk, and offered food as part of the

worship. A Siva-linga may be chala (movable) or achala (immovable). A chala linga may be in a house, carried, or sometimes worn around the neck. The achala lingas are installed in temples.

Siva in his human form is worshipped as the Utsava murthi, and taken out of the temple in processions.

The Vrishabha or the bull Nandi that Siva rides is Dharma. The Nandi before Siva temples signifies that we are all "Pasus" and Siva "Pati"; hence the name "*Pasupati*" for Siva. The presentation of Nandi, in the temples, looking towards Siva indicates Pasu i.e. "Jiva" should seek union with "Pati" i.e. Paramatman.

Pradhosha pooja

Is one of the most important among the poojas performed to the Graceful Lord Siva. The evening of the trayodasi (thirteenth moon day) between 4.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. is called Pradhosha and praying Lord Siva during this time is believed to free us from our sins and finally gives us moksha - hence the name Pradhosha

Pradhosha Purana

Once Devas and Asuras using the serpent Vasuki and Mandhara hill were trying to get Amrutham, from Ksheerabthi – the milky ocean. While churning, Halahalam - the terrible poison came up. Frightened by this, they pleaded to Lord Siva for rescue. Being the peak of mercy Lord Shiva consumed the poison. As a result Siva turned Blue and gained the name Neelakantan. Later as per His orders they resumed their effort to get Amrutham and got it on the Dhwadhasi day (twelfth moon day). Without praying and thanking the Lord, Devas started celebrating their victory. On the thrayodhasi day (thirteenth moon day) they realised their sin of not expressing their gratitude to Lord Siva, pleaded for forgiveness. The pleased graceful Lord Siva forgave them and believed to have danced between the horns of Nandhi (the holy bull). That time is called Pradhosham. It is believed

that whoever prays Lord Siva at that time, will have their wishes fulfilled.

Offering Vilvam and flowers to Lord Shiva and chanting *"shivAya namaOm bhavAya namaH bhavAya namaOm namaH shivAya"* will bring salvation.

During Prodhosha time anointing (Abhishekam) the deity with the following is considered fruitful.

Milk -	**gives long life**
Ghee -	**gives Moksha state**
Curd -	**gives good children**
Honey -	**gives melodious voice**
Rice powder -	**frees from debts**
Sugar cane juice -	**gives good health**
Panjamrutham -	**gives wealth**
Lemon -	**removes fear of death**
Sugar -	**removes enmity**
Tender coconut -	**gives enjoyment**
Cooked Rice(Annam) -	**gives majestic life**
Sandal -	**gives Lakshmi's grace**

The five elements of Siva:

Lord Siva is worshipped as five element lingas at five major temples in South India:

1. Akash-linga - Sky or space (ether) - in Chidambaram, Tamil Nadu.
2. Appu-linga – Water - at the Jambu-keswaram temple near Tiruchinappalli, Tamil Nadu.
3. Agni-linga – Fire - at the Arunachaleswar Temple, in Tiruvannamalai, Tamil Nadu.
4. Prithvi linga – Earth - in Kanchipuram, Tamil Nadu, (some claim it in Gokarna, Karnataka).
5. Vayu-linga – Air - in Sri Kalahasti, Andhra Pradesh.

The Trident 

The trident is the weapon of Siva with which he destroys evil and restores order. The trident stands for the triple qualities of nature, namely - sattva, rajas and tamas. Siva is the master of maya and thereby master of these three qualities with which he controls the worlds. The trident symbolically represents the fact that Siva is the controller of the worlds and controller of all illusion. The trident also represents the three aspects of time, the past, the present and the future. Siva is considered as the master of Time - Kala Bhairav - who determines the progress of the worlds according to His will.

Maheshwara murtis

According to Saiva Sidhdhaantha God is formless (Arupa). But for the salvation of lives He took the form of *lingam* - meaning symbol (arupa rupa). *Lingam* can be considered both as form as well as the formless symbol. This murti is called Sadashiva murti or Maheshwara murti. There are twentyfive Maheshwara murtis.

1. **Bhikshtanar**
2. **Kamari**
3. **Kalari**
4. **Kalyana Sundarar**
5. **Rishabharudhar**
6. **Chandra Shekharar**
7. **Uma Maheshvarar**
8. **Natarajar**
9. **Tripurantakar**
10. **Jalandharari**
11. **Gajasamhara murti**
12. **KaraLlr (Virabhadrar)**
13. **Shankara Narayanar**
14. **Ardha Narishvarar**
15. **Kiratar**
16. **Kankalar**
17. **Chandeshanugrahar**

18. **Chakra pradar**
19. **Saha uma skandar (Somaska.ndhar)**
20. **Eka padar**
21. **Gajamukhanugrahar (Vighneshanugrahar)**
22. **Dakshina murti**
23. **Nilakanthar**
24. **Lingodbhavar**
25. **Sukasanar**

Significance of Nataraja 

Siva, particularly as Nataraja or Dancing Siva, has won international esteem. In that image, Siva is conceived as the embodiment of Eternal Energy, engaged in the five-fold activity (Pancha-Kritya) of creation, preservation, destruction, obscuration and salvation. It indicates cosmic activity.

Siva dances on the body of Apasmara purusha who represents ego, ignorance and the original sin or soul's illusion. By trampling upon him Siva points out that wisdom consists in destroying the same.

In one of his upper arms, Siva holds the kettledrum whose sound symbolises creative energy. The other upper arm holds the fire pot of destruction. The lower right hand shows abhaya (protection) mudra. The lower left-hand points to the Lord's lifted foot believed to be saying: "Your salvation lies in worshipping my feet". Sometimes a deer is shown in one of his hands, equating to mind; thereby the control of the mind in us is taught.

The framework with lighted lamps, at the back of the idol, represents the dance of Prakriti or Nature, reflecting the dance of wisdom.

At the base of the crown of hair on Siva's head is a skull. It is symbolic of Siva's destroying energy. River Ganga on his head denotes fertility. The crescent-moon on his head (Siva is Chandra-sekhara) signifies Siva's grace and also Time. The Cobra on his head indicates Kundalinishakti at Sahasrara-chakra. His third eye stands

for omniscience or wisdom. (When Hindus wear kumkum or sandal-paste on their forehead, it is to remind themselves of their latent power of wisdom to which they should awaken.)

On the right ear, Siva wears makara-kundala, signifying the male principle and on the left tatanka (being Ardhanaarisa) denoting the female principle. His necklace of skulls proclaims that he is the arbiter of numberless creations and destructions. The ashes smeared all over Siva's body are symbolic of purity. By wearing it we remind ourselves that in the love of transient Samsara we should not lose sight of God. The body will end up in ashes.

Beads of rudraksha he wears represent the solidified tears of pity Siva shed, at the woes of his bhaktas. (Wearing rudrakshas on our body, remind us of Siva's concern for us and the need for deserving his grace by our steadfast devotion to him.)

The Upavita or sacred thread consists of 96 strands representing the 96 tattwas. Siva's wearing it proclaims that he is the arbiter of all actions.

The Cobra's coiling round Siva is symbolic of the cosmic force about him.

The tiger skin he wears tells us that we must strip ourselves of ahankara or pride, which is equated to the tiger.

By driving away maya, burning kama, crushing the ego and raising Jeeva by grace - these are said to be the works of the Lord's dance during pradosham - its deepest significance will be felt, when we visualised that it takes place in our heart. This in turn will bring in the realization that God is everywhere, as well within us.

Siva destroys not only the heavens and the earth but also the fetters that bind each separate soul. The burning ground of Siva is the heart of the bhakta where their selves are to be destroyed; where their illusions and doubts have to be burnt away.

Maheshwara Murthams:



The holy forms shown by the Formless Supreme Lord Siva are the "*Maheshwara Murtham*". These are considered to be 64 and are listed hereunder:

1. **Sivalingam**
2. **Lingodbhavar**
3. **Mukhalingam**
4. **Sadashivam**
5. **Mahasadashivam**
6. **Umamaheshwarar**
7. **Sukhasanamurti**
8. **Umeshamurti**
9. **SomAskandhamurti**
10. **Chandrashekaramurti**
11. **Vrisharudhamurti**
12. **Vrishandikamurti**
13. **Bhujanggalalitamurti**
14. **Bhujanggatrasamurti**
15. **Sandhiyanrittamurti**
16. **Sadanrittamurti**
17. **Chandatandavamurti**
18. **Gangadharamurti**
19. **Gangavisarjanamurti**
20. **Tripurantakamurti**
21. **Kalyanasundaramurti**
22. **Ardanarishwaramurti**
23. **Gajasurasamharamurti**
24. **Jvarabhagnamurti**
25. **Shardhulaharamurti**

54.Chakratalaswarupamurti

55.Gaurililasamanvitamurti

56.Vrishabhaharanamurti

57.Garudandikamurti

58.Brahmasirachetakamurti

59.Kurmasamharamurti

60.Matsyari

61.Varahari

62. Prarthanamurti

63.Raktabhikshapradanamurti

64.Sishyabhavamurti

Nayanmars:

In ancient India Saivism took shape as a distinct and major religious movement mostly in the south due to the untiring work of many great saints who were dedicated to Siva in every conceivable way and showed exemplary devotion to their beloved Lord through their lives and works of great merit.



The illustrious propagators of Saivism have been classified into two groups: the four ``Samaya'' (religious) leaders and four ``Santhana Acharyas.'' The farmer's outpourings have been collected as Thevaram. The lineage of the latter commences with Nandi Devar (bodyguard of Lord Siva) followed by three illustrious saintly guides.

The Nayanmars hailed from all walks of life and **the Periya Puranam was an account of the lives of the Saiva saints who lived in the Tamil land. It is also**

known as Thiruthondar Puranam as it chronicles the lives of devotees and was composed by Sekkhizhar. Sundaramurthy Swamigal undertook the pioneering task of documenting their lives in the Thiruthondar Thokai on which Sekkhizhar based his work. Sekkhizhar was a minister of the Chola rulers and his documentation is more elaborate. One may wonder why only 63 saints have been singled out as Nayanmars. Certainly the Saiva saints are many more. It is by no means a limitation but a representation of the different ways devotion expressed itself in human lives and how God graced them each in a unique manner.

The biographies of the 63 Nayanmars, totally committed to the worship of Lord Siva, convey their poignant feelings. They spread the message of Saiva Siddhanta, which deals with the three entities, God, Soul and Bondage, the former two being eternal. Born as humans, with norms of behaviour and codes of conduct, pious persons in noble company are rewarded with divine life and evildoers are punished with sufferings in their subsequent birth. The characteristics of the followers of Saivism as seen from the biographies of these 63 saints are their devotion to the Lord, their chanting of the holy five-lettered Mantra and their reverence for holy ash (vibhuthi). They are:

1. Sundaramurthi Nayanar
2. Tiruneelakanta Nayanar
3. Iyarpahai Nayanar
4. Illayankudi Mara Nayanar
5. Maiporul Nayanar
6. Viralminda Nayanar
7. Amaraneedi Nayanar
8. Eripatha Nayanar
9. Enadinatha Nayanar
10. Kannappa Nayanar
11. Kunguliya Kalaya Nayanar
12. Manakanchara Nayanar
13. Arivattaya Nayanar
14. Anaya Nayanar
15. Murthi Nayanar
16. Muruga Nayanar
17. Rudra Pasupathi Nayanar
18. Tiru Nalai Povar Nayanar (Nandanar)
19. Tiru Kurippu Tonda Nayanar
20. Chandeswara Nayanar
21. Tiru Navukkarasar Nayanar (Appar)
22. Kulachirai Nayanar
23. Perumizhailai Kurumba Nayanar
24. Karaikkal Ammaiyar
25. Appudi Nayanar

26.Tiru Neelakanta Nayanar
27.Nami Nandi Adigal
28.Tiru Gnana Sambandar
29.Eyarkon Kalikama Nayanar
30.Tiru Mula Nayanar
31.Dandi Adigal Nayanar
32.Murkha Nayanar
33.Somasira Nayanar
34.Sakkiya Nayanar
35.Sirappuli Nayanar
36.Siruthonda Nayanar
37.Cheraman Perumal Nayanar
38.Gananatha Nayanar
39.Kootruva Nayanar
40.Pugal Chola Nayanar
41.Narasinga Muniyarayar
42.Adipattha Nayanar
43.Kalikamba Nayanar
44.Kalia Nayanar
45.Satti Nayanar
46.Aiyadigal Kadavarkon Nayanar
47.Kanampulla Nayanar
48.Kari Nayanar
49.Ninra Seer Nedumara Nayanar
50.Mangayarkarasiyar
51.Vayilar Nayanar
52.Munaiyaduvar Nayanar
53.Kazharsinga Nayanar
54.Seruthunai Nayanar
55.Idangazhi Nayanar
56.Pugazh Thunai Nayanar
57.Kotpuli Nayanar
58.Pusalar Nayanar
59.Nesa Nayanar
60.Kochengat Chola Nayanar
61.Tiru Neelakanta Yazhpanar
62.Sadaya Nayanar
63.Isaignaniyar

Works of Nayanmars:

Tevaram

Collection of the hymns of the foremost of the Saivite Nayanmars, Appar, Sambandar and Sundarar; set to music; these ancient hymns

have had a profound influence on the growth of Carnatic Music, and are even now being sung in temples as part of worship. The Tevàram, as we now have it, is a corpus of approximately 800 hymns (*pathigams*) to God Siva, that were composed by 3 saints (Sambanthar, Appar and Sundarar) at a time of powerful religious fervour, or *bhakti*, between the 6th and 9th centuries, in the Tamil world. Most of these hymns refer and are attached by tradition to specific Siva temples located at specific sites (*sthalams*). Tradition also attaches some musical information to a great number of hymns in so far as it specifies what musical scale (*paõ*) is to be used when singing them. As a consequence, two traditional classificational canons (or *muzai*) are met with, in the collections of hymns, one being called *tala muzai* (with primary classification according to the 276 sites), and the other one being called *paõ muzai* (with primary classification according to the three authors, and secondary classification to 24 different musical scales). In the latter case, the Tevàram is seen as consisting of 7 sacred canonical books (or 7 *tiru muzai*): the first, second and the third book contain the *pathigams* composed by Sambanthar; the fourth, fifth and the sixth of those composed by Appar; the seventh book containing 100 pathigams, the work of Sundarar.

The Tevaram hymns were rescued from obscurity and set to music by Nambiandar Nambi during the rule of Rajaraja Chola I.

Tiruvempaavai

"Thiruvempaavai" is the composition of 20 hymns in praise of Lord Siva written by Manikkavachakar, at the grand Tiruvannamalai Arunachaleswarar temple. This is exactly on the same lines of "Tiruppavai" of Sri Andal. This deals about the paavai nonbu aspect on saivaite bhakthi and is sung ceremoniously during the winter month of Margazhi

Tiruvachagam

The *Tiruvachakam* is, one of the most well-known and best-loved works of Tamil devotional literature of Manikkavachagar. Parts of it are regularly chanted every day in many South Indian temples.

Manikkavachakar emphasized that Tiruvachagam leads to the awakening of the flame from within, and show how man, step by step, can obtain salvation by reaching Lord Siva.

275 Siva Sthalams:

The 275 Shivastalams glorified by the Tevaram Hymns (pathigams) with at least 10 Tevaram verses each, of Nayanmars are listed hereunder:

Chola Naadu - North of River Cauveri (63 Temples):

1.Koyil(Chidambaram)
2.Tiruvetkalam
3.Tirunelvayil
4.Tirukkazhippalai
5.Tirunallurpperumanam
6.Mahendrapalli
7.TenTirumullaivayil
8.Kalikkaamoor
9.Tiruchaaikaadu

10. Pallavaneeswaram
11. Tiruvenkadu
12. Keezhaittirukkattuppalli
13. Tirukkurukaavur
***14.* Sirkazhi**
15. Tirukkolakka
***16.* Pullirukkuvelur (Vaitheeswaran Koyil)**
17. Kannaar Kovil
18. Tirukkadaimudi
19. Tiruninriyur
20. Tiruppunkur
21. Tiruneedur
22. Tiru Anniyur
23. Tiruvelvikudi
24. Edirkolpaadi
25. Tirumanancheri
26. Tirukkurukkai
27. Karuppariyalur

28. Kurakkukka
29. Tiruvaalkoliputrur
30. Tirumannippadikkarai
31. Omampuliyur
32. Tirukkaanaattumulloor
33. Tirunaarayur
34. Kadambur
35. Pandanainallur
36. Kanjanoor
37. Tirukkodikka
38. Tirumangalakkudi
39. Tiruppanantaal
40. Tiruvaappaadi
41. Tirucheignalur
42. Tirundudevankudi
43. Tiruviyalur
44. Kottaiyur
45. Innambar
46. Tiruppurampayam
47. Vijayamangai
48. Tiruvaikavur
49. Kurangaaduturai
50. Tiruppazhanam
***51.* Tiruvaiyaru**
52. Tiruneittanam
53. Tirupperumpuliyur
54. Tirumazhapadi
55. Tiruppazhuvur (Aalanturai)
56. Tirukkaanoor
57. Anbilalanturai
58. Tirumaanturai
59. Tiruppaatrurai
***60.* Tiru Aanaikkaa**
61. Tiruppainneeli
62. Tiruppaachilasramam
63. Tiruveengoimalai

Chola Naadu - South of River Cauvery (128 Temples)

1. Vaatpokki
2. Kadambar Kovil
3. Tirupparaaitturai
4. Tirukkarkudi (Uyyakkondan Malai)
5. Uraiyur
***6.* Tiruchirappalli**
7. Tiruverumbur
8. Nedunkalam

9. Melaittirukkattuppalli
10. Tiruvalampozhil
11. Tiruppoonturutti
12. Tirukkandiyur
13. Tiruchotrutturai
14. Tiruvedikkudi
15. Tenkudittittai
16. Tiruppullamangai
17. Tiruchakrapalli
18. Tirukkarukaavoor
19. Tiruppaalaitturai
20. Tirunallur
21. Aavoor Pasupateeswaram
22. Satthi Mutram
23. Patteeswaram
24. Pazhaiyarai Vadatali
25. Tiruvalanchuzhi
26. Tirukkudamookku
27. Tirukkudandai Keezhkottam
28. Kudandaikkaaronam
29. Tirunageswaram
***30.* Tiruvidaimarudur**
31. Ten Kurangaaduturai
32. Tiruneelakkudi
33. Vaikanmaadakkovil
34. Tirunallam
35. Tirukkozhambam
36. Tiruvavaduturai
37. Tirutturutti
38. Tiruvazhundur
39. Mayiladuturai
40. Viilanagar
41. Tiruppariyalur
42. Tiruchemponpalli
43. Tirunanipalli
44. Tiruvalampuram
45. Tiruttalaichankadu
46. Aakkoor
***47.* Tirukkadavur**
48. Tirukkadavur Mayaanam
49. Tiruvettakkudi
50. Tiruttelicheri
51. Dharumapuram
52. Tirunallar
53. Tirukkottaru
54. Ambar
55. Ambar Maakaalam
56. Tirumeeyachur

57. Tirumeeyachur Ilamkovil
58. Thilataipati
59. Tiruppaampuram
60. Sirukudi
61. Tiruveezhimizhalai
62. Tiruvanniyur
63. Karuvili Kottittai
64. Penu Perunturai
65. Naraiyur
66. Arisirkaraiputtur
67. Sivapuram
68. Kalayanallur
69. Tirukkarukkudi
70. Tiruvanchiyam
71. Nannilam
72. Tirukkondeeswaram
73. Tiruppanaiyur
74. Virkudi
75. Tiruppugalur
76. Tiruppugalur Vardhamaneswaram
77. Ramanadeeswaram
78. Tiruppayatrankudi
79. Tiruchenkattankudi
80. Tirumarugal
81. Tiruchaattamangai
82. Nagaikkaronam
83. Sikkil
84. Keevalur
85. Tiruttevur
86. Palliyin Mukkoodal
87. Achaleswaram
***88.* Tiruvarur**
89. Arurparavaiumandali
90. Vilamar
91. Karaveeram
92. Peruvelur
93. Talaiyalankadu
94. Tirukkudavaayil
95. Tirucherai
96. Tirunalurmayaanam
97. Kaduvaaikaaraiputhur
98. Tiruvirumpoolai
99. Aradaipperumpazhi
100. Avalivanallur
101. Paridiniyamam
102. Tiruvenniyur (Koyil venni)
103. Tiruppoovanur
104. Paadaaleeswaram

105. Tirukkalar
106. Tiruchitremam
107. Tiru Usaattaanam
108. Tiruidumbavanam
109. Kadikkulam
110. Tandalaineeneri
111. Kottur
112. Vanduturai
113. Tirukkollampudur
114. Pereyil
115. Tirukkollikkadu
116. Tenkoor
117. Tirunellikka
118. Tirunatyattankudi
119. Tirukkarayil
120. Kanraappur
121. Valivalam
122. Kaichinam
123. Tirukkolili
124. Tiruvaimur
125. Tirumaraikkadu
126. Tiru Agathiyan Palli
127. Kodikkarai
128. Tiruvidaivai

Eezha Naadu - Sri Lanka (2 Temples)

1. Tirukkonamalai
2. Tirukketheeswaram

Pandya Naadu (14 Temples)

1.Aalavaai(Madurai)
2. Aappudaiyaar Kovil

3.Tirupparankunram
4.Tiruvedakam
5. Tirukkodunkunram

6.Tirupputhur
7.Tiruppunavayil
8.Rameswaram
9.Tiruvaadaanai
10.Tirukkaanapper

11.Tiruppoovanam **12.Tiruchuzhial** **13.Kutralam** **14.Tirunelveli**

Malai Naadu - Kerala (1 Temple)

1. Tiruvanchikkalam

Kongu Naadu (7 Temples)

1.Avinaasi **2.Tirumuruganpoondi** **3.TiruNana** 4.Kodimadachenkunroor(Tiruchengode) **5.Venchamaakoodal** **6.Paandikkodumudi** **7. Karuvoor Aanilai**

Nadu Naadu (22 Temples)

1.TirunelvayilAratturai **2.Pennaagadam** **3.Goodalaiyatrur** **4.Erukkattampuliyur** **5.TiruttinaiNagar**

6.Tiruchopuram **7.Tiruvatikai** **8.Tirunaavalur** **9.Tirumudukunram** **10.Tirunelvennei**
11.TirukkovalurVeerattam **12.Arankandanallur** **13.Tiruvidaiyaru** **14.Tiruvennainallur** **15.Tirutturaiyur** **16.Vatukur** **17.Tirumaanikkuzhi** **18. Tiruppadrippuliyur** **19. Tirumundeeswaram** **20.PuravaarPanankattur** **21.TiruAamaathur** 22. Tiruvannamalai

Tondai Naadu (31 Temples)

1.KachiEkambam **2. KachiMetral** **3. Onakanthan Tali** **4.KachiAnekatangapadam** **5.KachiNerikkaaraikkadu** **6.Kuranganilmuttam** **7.Tirumaakaral** **8. Tiruvothur** **9.Panankattur** **10.Tiruvallam** **11.Tirumalper** **12.Tiruvooral** **13.Ilambayankottur** **14.Tiruvirkolam** **15.Tiruvalankadu** **16.Tiruppaasur** **17.Tiruvenpakkam** **18.Tirukkallil**

19.Tiruvotriyur **20.Tiruvalithaayam** **21.Tirumullaivayil** **22.Tiruverkadu** 23.Tirumailai(Mylapore) **24.Tiruvanmiyur** **25.Tirukkachoor** **26.Tiruvidaichuram** 27.Tirukkalukunram **28.TiruAcharapakkam** **29.Tiruvakkarai** **30.Arasili** **31. Irumbai Maakalam**

Tuluva Naadu - Karnataka (1 Temple)

1. Gokarnam

Vada Naadu (6 Temples)

1. Sri Kalahasti(Andhrapradesh) **2. Tirupparuppatham (Sri Sailam – AP)** **3. Anekatangavadam (Gowrikund)** **4. Tirukkedaram (Kedarnath)** **5. Tirukkailayam (Mount Kailash)** **6. Indraneela Parvatam (Nepal)**

Chola Naadu - North of Cauveri River (63 Temples)





1. KOYIL (Chidambaram)

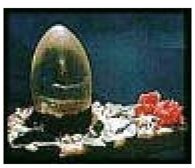
Chidambaram is one of the most ancient and most celebrated shrines of great religious as well of historic and cultural significance. The word "Koyil" or temple in the Tamil Saivite tradition refers to none other than the Chidambaram Natarajar temple. The presiding deity Nataraja, or Shiva is in his Ananda Tandava pose in the cosmic golden hall of consciousness (Chit Sabha). Shiva is also worshipped

as Akasa Lingam, in the "formless form" which is popularly called the Chidambara Rahasyam.

The presiding deity is Ambalavaanar, Natarajar and the Ambal SivakamiAmman.
The sthala Vriksham is Tillai and the Theertham Siva Ganga

Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legends has it that Aadi Sesha, learning from Vishnu the grandeur of Shiva's cosmic dance was filled with irrepressible desire to witness this dance in person at Chidambaram. He descended to the earth as Patanjali - meaning one who descended. Vyagrapaadar another devotee of Siva, who obtained the tiger's claws so that he could collect with ease the sacred Vilva leaves meant for Siva's worship, was also at Chidambaram. At the appointed hour, Siva (with Parvati - Sivakami) granted to Patanjali and Vyagrapaadar, a visual treat in the form of his Cosmic Dance of Bliss, to the accompaniments of music played by several divine personalities in the Hindu pantheon. This Dance of Bliss is also said to have been witnessed by Vishnu.



Commemorating this there is a shrine for Vishnu - Govindaraja in the Natarajar temple, and the Naalayira Divya Prabandam of the Vaishnavite Azhwars sing the glory of this image. Adi Sankara is said to have presented a Spatika Lingam, which is still under worship in this temple.

The dance of bliss, or the Ananda Tandavam of Siva – popularly called Nataraja - is said to symbolize the five divine acts (pancha krityas) of creation, sustenance, dissolution, concealment and bestowment of grace. The dance of Siva is reverentially held in worships in Nataraja Sabhas, in all of the Saivite temples in Tamilnadu. Importance is given to five of the foremost Sabhas called "Pancha Sabhai". They are located at Chidmbaram (Kanaka Sabhai - the hall of gold), Madurai (Rajata Sabhai - the hall of Silver), Tiruvalangadu near Arakonam (Ratnasabhai - the hall of rubies), Tirunelveli (Tamrasabhai - the hall of copper) and Kutralam (Chitrasabhai - the hall of pictures).

Other dance halls of significance are Adri Sabhai in the Himalayas, Aadi Chitsabhai at Tiruvenkaadu near Chidambaram, and Perur Kanakasabhai in the Patteeswarar temple at Perur near Coimbatore.

The innermost sanctum of the temple, houses the grand images of Siva (Nataraja) and Parvati (Sivakami) in the ChitSabha or the hall of consciousness The Chitsabha, the holiest shrine in the temple, is a

wooden structure supported with wooden pillars, with a hut shaped roof. It is in this hall, that the images of Nataraja and Sivakami are housed, in front of a set of two curtains, the inner (invisible) one being red in color, the outer one being black in color. To the right of Siva, is the revered Chidambara rahasyam - or a representation of emptiness garlanded with golden vilva leaves. The curtain in front of the Chidambara Rahasyam, representing Siva (and Parvati) in the formless form (Aroopam) is lifted ceremoniously during worship services, with offerings of lamps

The outermost prakaram is home to the grand Sivakami Amman temple, the Sivaganga tank and the 1000-pillared hall or the Raja Sabha, where Nataraja is brought during two annual festivals. The vast Sivakami Amman shrine is a temple on the right. Ceilings on the mukhamandapam of this temple have paintings from the Nayaka period. There are friezes of dancers, drummers and musicians all along the enclosing walls of this temple. The thousand-pillared hall has witnessed several grand events in history. This hall is also designed in the form of a chariot. Its entrance features two elephants, and on the basement there is a frieze of dancing figures. Perhaps the most magnificent structures in the temple are the four lofty gopurams or towers in the four cardinal directions, piercing the walls of the outermost prakaram. Each is a gigantic masterpiece in itself - about 250 feet in height, with seven tiers. The Western tower is the oldest one. In the towers, on either side of the gateways there are representations of the 108 poses of the classical Bharata Natyam Tradition as enunciated in the Classic Natya Sastra.

The Saiva Agama system of temple rituals followed in almost all of the Saivite temples in Tamilnadu is not followed at Chidambaram. It is a unique worship protocol said to have been prescribed by Patanjali, and is being followed at this temple.

When the images of the Trinity Saints were brought in procession to the temple by Raja Raja Chola, the ruler at that time, it is believed that the sacred Tamil works of the Nayanmaars - rich in musical content, which were missing for several years, were recovered in a dilapidated state in one of the chambers in this vast temple.

The bulk of Manikkavacakar's work is in praise of Siva at Chidambaram.

Two annual Brahmotsavams at Chidambaram are of great significance, as they involve colorful processions of festival deities. The grandest of these occurs in the month of Margazhi (Dec 15 - Jan 15), concluding on the full moon day corresponding to the Arudra Darisanam festival. The second Brahmotsavam happens in the month of Aani, and it concludes with Aani Tirumanjanam on the tenth day, in a manner similar to Arudra Darisanam in Margazhi

2. Tiruvetkalam

This temple is located in the vicinity of the Annamalai University at Chidambaram.

The presiding deity is Pasupateswarar and the Ambal Nalla Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Moongil and the Theertham Siva Gangai
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have appeared in the form of a hunter and then blessed Arjuna with the Pasupatastram and this event is enacted during the festival in the Tamil month of Vaikasi. The bows Gandipam and Pinakam are said to have been formed here. There are festival images of Arjuna, and Shiva with the Pasupatastram.

Many villages around this shrine participate in the celebrations of their association with the legend of Arjuna's encounter with Siva. Usuppoor is where Arjuna is said to have chased a wild boar, which disturbed his meditation. Eesanporveli is where Arjuna is believed to have fought with Shiva, and Villeruttaan Kuttai is where Arjuna's bow, is said to have been broken by Shiva.

Sambandar, considering the entire town of Chidambaram to be the holy temple, resided in Tiruvetkalam, and regularly visited the Chidambaram temple from here.

3. Tirunelvayil

This Sivastalam is located at Sivapuri, close to Chidambaram.

The presiding deity is Uchinathar, Shikhapureeswarar and the Ambal Kanakambika
The Theertham is Kripasamudram
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva revealed His cosmic dance to Sambandar. It is believed that Sambandar visited Chidambaram from Sirkaazhi, accompanied by Tiruneelakanda Yaazhpaanar and others. Considering the whole of Chidambaram to be a Koyil, he resided at Tiruvetkalam. He is believed to have visited Tirunelvaayil, and Tirukkazhippaalai from Tiruvetkalam and composed his Pathigam. There are inscriptions from the Nayak period here.

Sivaratri and Arudra Darsanam are important festivals.

4. Tirukkazhippaalai

This Siva sthalam is close to Chidambaram. The Kollidam river washed away, the original shrine sung by the Nayanmars and the deity remains in the Nelvayil-Sivapuri temple (Chidambaram) known as the Paalaiyappar Kovil. Inscriptions to this effect, from the Imperial Chola period are found in this temple.

The presiding deity is Paalvanna Naathar and the Ambal Vedanayaki
The Theertham is Kollidam
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Valmiki worshipped Shiva here. The water in the temple's well is believed to be white in color.

Arudra Darsanam is celebrated in a grand scale.

5. Tirunallurperumanam 

This Sivastalam is located near Kollidam railway station on the Chidambaram -Mayiladuturai railroad.

The presiding deity is Shivalokatyagar and the Ambal Tiruvenneerammai,UmaDevi.
The Sthala Vriksham is Maamaram and the Theertham Panchakshara Theertham.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parasarar, Vashishtar, Bhrigu and Jamadagni Munis were blessed with a vision of Shivalokam after their arduous meditation here (hence Sivalokatyagar). Vishnu and Brahma are also believed to have worshipped Siva here.

This temple is the site of Sambandar's wedding where the entire gathering is believed to have been blessed by Tiruvenneerammai – Parvati, and attained salvation. This event is commemorated each year.

Mahavidwan Meenakshisundarampillai has composed the Tiruvenneetrumai Pillaittamizh in honor of this shrine.

6.  Mahendrappalli

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Aachalapuram near Kollidam.

The presiding deity is Tirumeniazhagar, Somasundareswarar and the AmbalVadivambikai
The sthala vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Mahendra Pushkarini.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have revealed a vision of his Cosmic Dance to the sages, Surya, Chandra, Indra and Brahma who worshipped her. Sundarar has referred to this shrine in his Pathigam dedicated to Tiruppunkur.

Arudra Darsanam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Margazhi.

7.  Ten Tirumullaivayil

This Sivastalam is a coastal shrine in the vicinity of Tiruvenkadu and Pallavaneeswaram.

The presiding deity is Mullaivananathar and the Ambal Kothaiyammai
The sthala Vriksham is Mullai and the Theertham Chandra Theertham

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

The legend has it that Indra is said to have worshipped Siva here, and that the Namachivaya mantram was revealed to Parvati Devi here.

An interesting legend surrounds this shrine. The mortal remains of a devotee of Siva turned into gems when they were immersed in the Theertham here.

Arudra Darsanam is celebrated during the Tamil month of Margazhi.

8. Kalikkaamoor

This Sivastalam is located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal, near Poompuhar.

The presiding deity is Sundareswarar and the Ambal Azhagammai.
The Theertham is Ambuli Theertham
Sundarar has composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Paraasarar worshipped Siva here.

The Skanda Shasti festival is of great significance at this place.

9.  Tiruchaaikadu

Also known as Chaayaavanam, this Siva sthalam is in the ancient Chola seashore capital of Poompuhaar and this shrine considered to be on par with Banares.

The presiding deity is Chaayavaneswarar and the Ambal Kuyilinum Nanmozhiammai;Goshambaal.
The sthala vriksham is Korai and the Theertham Sangumukha Theertham.

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Indra and Airavatam (the elephant) are said to have worshipped here; Indra is said to have attempted to take the deity to his heavenly abode but failed. The deity is at present found in a Vimanam shaped chariot within the temple.

Indira Vizha is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai, and the Iyarpakai Nayanar festival is celebrated in the month of Markazhi. Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Skanda Sashti and Navaratri are the other festivals celebrated here.

10.  Pallavaneeswaram

This Siva shetram is at the confluence of the river Cauveri with the Bay of Bengal near Poompuhaar.

The presiding deity is Pallavaneswarar and the Ambal Soundara Nayaki.

The sthala vriksham is Mullai and the Theertham Jaanavi Theertham.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Kubera is believed to have worshipped Siva at this sthalam. There is also a separate shrine to Sambaapathi Amman, which is believed to have been worshipped by Madhavi and Manimekalai of the Sangam epics.

Pattinathaar, who is believed to be reincarnation of Kubera, is worshipped during the festival celebrated in the Tamil month of Aaadi. Navaratri and Skanda Sashti are the other festivals celebrated here.

11.  **Tiruvenkaadu**

This shrine is located near Sirkazhi.

The presiding deity is Venkadar, Swetaraneswarar and Ambal Pann Moitta Inmozhiyaal, Brahma Vudya Nayaki.

The sthala vriksham is Aalamaram and the Theertham Surya Theertham.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Indra, Airavatam, Budhan, Surya and Chandra are said to have worshipped here. Similar to the legend of Markandeya, a sage by name Swetaketu is said to have been saved from the clutches of death by the grace of Shiva here. It is also believed that Shiva took the fierce Aghoramurthy form, to vanquish the demon Maruttuvan, who has misused the "soolam" given as a boon by Siva.

Meikkandaar the author of Sivagnanabodham is said to have been born by the grace of Swetaranyeswarar and there is a shrine to him on the banks of the Agni Theertham

Siva thandavam festival as in Chidambaram is celebrated here.

12. [Keezhai Tirukkaattuppalli] 

This Sivastalam is located close to Poompuhaar.

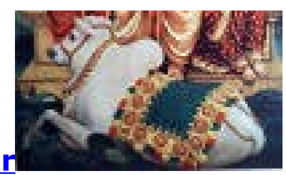
The presiding deity is Aranya Sundareswarar and the Ambal Akilandanayaki
The Theertham is Amuda Poikai

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Devas are said to have prayed to Siva to relieve Indra of the sin of having slain the demon Vriddirasuran. Brahma is said to have worshipped Siva by creating ten Sivalingams at this shetram.

The annual festival is celebrated during the Tamil month of Thai.

The design of the temple is such that it causes a sound resembling the waves of sea, heard in the Dakshinamurthy shrine.

13. Tirukkurukaavur 

This Shivastalam, also known as Velladai is located close to Sirkali.

The presiding deity is Velladaiyappar, Ratnangureswarar and the Ambl Kaaviyankanni; Neelotpala Visalakshi
The Theertham is Velvidai Theertham.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vishnu is said to have taken the form of a white Rishabham and prayed to Siva, hence Velvidai, Rishabapuram, and Vishnupuram. It is also believed that Siva caused Kuberan to provide a poor devotee with a gift of gems hence the name Ratnankureswarar. Agni in the guise of a pigeon had tested King Sibi and to regain his original form, created a river and offered its waters in prayer to Siva, hence Kurukavur.

Siva is also said to have miraculously provided Sundaramoorthy Nayanar with a meal of curds rice and hence this place is also called Daddiyonnapuram.

Shiva's blessing Sundaramoorthy Nayanar is enacted on Chitra Pournami, and his blessing Sambandar is enacted on Thai Amavasai. Skanda Sashti is also celebrated here.

14.  Sirkazhi

Sirkazhi is a highly revered shrine with 71 (the most number of known) Tevara Patikams and is located in the vicinity of Vaitheeswaran Koil. It is a center for Bhairava worship.

The presiding deity is Thoniappar, Bhramapureeswarar, Sattanathar and the Ambal Tirunilainayaki
The Theertham is Bhrama Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that during the great deluge that submerged the earth, Siva is said to have carried the 64 arts with him in a raft, in this shrine, hence the name Toniappar, and Tonipuram. Brahma is believed to have worshipped Siva here, hence the name Bhrammapureeswarar. Bhairavar or Sattainathar, who is said to have quelled the arrogance of Trivikramar, after his having shown his dominance over the three worlds, is worshipped here each Friday night.

Sambandar as an infant is said to have been fed with the milk of wisdom by the divine mother Parvati on the banks of the temple tank, just prior to the commencement of his authorship of the anthology of Tevaram hymns commencing with Todudaiya Seviyan*.* This well maintained temple is under the administration of the Dharumapura Adhinam.

This is a vast temple complex with three different Siva Shrines. The Bhramapureeswarar shrine is housed in the lower level. The second level houses Periyanakar with Periyanayaki on a 'Thoni' and hence the name Thoniappar. Sattainathar/Vatukanathar is also housed here. From the steps leading to the Toniappar and the Vatukanathar

shrine, one can grasp the entire layout of this vast temple and its towers and mandapams. There are 22 Theerthams associated with this shrine. Three different forms of Siva are worshipped here, the Sivalingam (Bhrammapureeswarar), a collossal image of Uma Maheswarar (Toniappar) at the upper level, and Bhairavar (Sattanathar) again at the upper level.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai, where on the second day, the Tirugnanasambandar festival is celebrated.

15. Tirukkolakka

The temple is also known as Taalam Udaiyar Kovil, located near Sirkazhi.

The presiding deity is Shabdapureesar and the Ambal Osai Kodutta Nayaki.
The Theertham is Surya Theertham
Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is believed to have been worshipped by Kanva Rishi at this place.

Tirugnana Sambandar is said to have received a pair of golden cymbals from Siva, and Parvati - Osai Kodutta Nayaki, in turn blessed the cymbals.

The Tirumulaippaal Utsavam in the Tamil month of Chittirai, where an image of Tirugnanasambandar is brought here from Sirkazhi is the most important one.

16.  Pullirukkuvelur (Vaitheeswaran Koyil)

This Sivastalam is a well-known shrine hailed as one of the nine Navagraha Stalams, sacred to Angarakan. It is located in close proximity to Sirkazhi.

The presiding deity is Vaidyanathar and the Ambal Thaiyal Nayaki, Balambika

The sthala Vriksham is Vepa Maram and the Theertham Sidhamrita Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

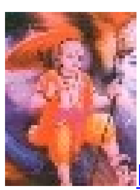
Legend has it that Siva is considered to be the Divine Healer "Vaidyanathar". His consort Thaiyalnaayaki is said to accompany him with a vessel containing medicinal oil. There is also a shrine dedicated to Dhanwantari here. The prasadam offered at this temple goes by the name Tiruchaandu Urundai and it is considered to cure many ailments. It is made of ashes taken out of the homa kundam in front of the Subramanya shrine. Rituals are performed where a mixture of earth and ashes from the homakundam are shaped into pills and placed at the Thaiyalnayaki shrine and distributed.

Rama Lakshmana **and the Saptarishis are also said to have worshipped Siva here. It is believed that Rama performed the last rites to Jatayu here. The nectar with which the Sidhas worshipped Siva is said to have flown into the Sidhamrita Theertham. Rig Vedam (Irukku), Jatayu (Pull), Sambadi, the Surya (Oor) and Skanda (Vel) are said to have worshipped Siva here and hence the name PullirukkuVelur.**

The Navagrahams are in a single file.

This temple is rich in legend and tradition. There are several works in Tamil dedicated to this shrine. It was visited by Tirugnanasambandar, Appar. Arunagirinathar's Tiruppugazh hymns also speak of the glory of this shrine. So do the hymns of saints such as Kumaragurupara Swamigal and Ramalinga Adigalaar. Poems of Kaalamega Pulavar and Padikkasu Tambiran also speak of the glories of this shrine.

The annual Brahmotsavams are celebrated in the Tamil months of Pankuni and Thai. Other festivals celebrated here include Skanda Sashti.

17.  **Kannaar Kovil** 

This Sivastalam is located close to Vaitheeswaran Koyil.

The presiding deity is Kannayireswarar, Sahasranetreswarar and the Ambal Murugulvalar

Kodaiyammai, Sugandha Kundalambika.

The sthala Vriksham is Sarakkonrai and the Theertham is Indra Theertham.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Devas prayed to Siva to rid Indra of the curse of Gowtama Rishi who had cursed his body to be covered with a multitude of eyes, on account of his having deceived Ahalya. It is also believed that Vishnu as Vamanar obtained the blessings of Siva, prior to his setting out to Mahabali's court and hence the name Kurumaanikkudi.

Festivities are observed in the Tamil month of Kaartikai.

18.  Tirukkadaimudi

This Sivastalam is located near Vaitheeswaran Koyil.

The presiding deity is Kadaimudinathar and the Ambal Abhiramavalli
The sthala Vriksham is Kiluvai and the Theertham Kadaimudi
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma worshipped Siva at this shetram.

Arudra Darsanam is celebrated at this shetrm.

19.  Tiruninriyur

This Sivastalam is located close to Sirkazhi.

The presiding deity is Mahalakshmeesar, Parikeswarar and the Ambal Ulaga Nayaki, Loka Nayaki
The Theertham is Neelamalarppoikai
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Jamadagni and Parasuramar are said to have worshipped here. Vishnu and Mahalakshmi are also said to have worshipped here, hence the name Mahalakshmeeswarar.

It is believed that the Chola king's retinue's lamps used to get put out upon crossing this temple. The sanskrit name here is Varthi Nirvapanapuram, which translates into Tiri-ninravur, jibing with the legend associated with Veera Cholan.

This temple is under the able administration of the Dharumapuram Adhinam.

20.  **Tiruppunkur**

This Siva shetram is located near Vaideeswaran Kovil.

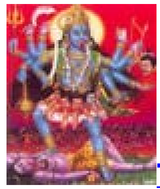
The presiding deity is Sivalokanathar and the Ambal Chokka Nayaki, Soundara Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Punkamaram and the Theertham Rishabha Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Siva is worshipped as a Prithvi Lingam here. Legend has it that Indra, Agasthyar, Bhrama, Surya and Chandra, Patanjali and Vyagrapadar and the Vanaras who had gone in search of Sita (in the Ramayana) are said to have worshipped here. The Nandi is said to have moved away from the shrine to provide a vision of Shiva to Nandanar.

Sundarar is said to have miraculously caused it to rain to provide much needed relief from a prolonged drought upon being requested by Kalikkaama Naayanar of Tirupperumangalakkudi, a village nearby. The well-known legend of Agastyar being blessed with a vision of Siva's marriage with Parvati is also associated with this temple.

A Panchamukha lingam, representing Shiva's appearance before Brahma is seen under the stalavriksham in the Prakaram. It is believed that after their defeat the two of the three vain asuras of the Tri-Purams became dwarapalakas and other became Nataraja's drummer at this shetram.

Sivaratri is celebrated on a grand scale at this shetram.

21.  Tiruneedur

This Shivastalam is located at a distance of 1 km from the Needur railway station near, Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Arulsomanathar, Somanathar and the Ambal Veyurutoliammai, Adityapradambika.

The sthala vriksham is Magizhamaram (Bakula) and the Theertham Senkazhuneerodai
Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Indra, Surya, Chandra and Kaali are said to have worshipped here. Indra is believed to have fashioned a Sivalingam out of earth from the banks of Cauveri river. Siva is also known as Karkateswarar and this name comes from the belief that a crab had offered worship to Siva. Needur is also known as Vakularanyam, Makilaranyam and Magizhavanam.

There is an imposing shrine to Bhadrakali - Aalaalasundari and Surya here. On Sundays special worship is being conducted to Sun God in the shrine located in the temple.

Needur has been mentioned in ancient Sangam literature (Akanaanooru), and Sundarar and Appar have described its richness and natural wealth. It is believed that this shrine will remain indestructible through the great deluge, hence Needur.

22. Tiru Anniyur

This Shivastalam is located close to Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Aabatsakayeswarar and the Ambal Periya Nayaki.
The sthala vriksham is Lemon tree and the Theertham Varuna Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Manmathan is believed to have restored back his physical form when his wife Rathi, worshipped Siva at this shetram. Siva is also said to have given darsan to Agni under the lemon tree, which is the sthala vriksham here, and hence the deity is also called

Vrikcharanyeswarar. The Pandavas are also believed to have visited this shrine. Siva is said to have blessed Harischandra here, and hence the name Aabatsakayeswarar.

The sun's rays illuminate the sanctum for five days from the 24th day of the Tamil month of Panguni and hence this shrine is referred to as a Bhaskarastalam.

23. Tiruvelvikkudi

This is a small temple located close to Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Kalyanasundareswarar and the Ambal Parimalasugandha Nayaki
The Theertham is Mangala Theertham
Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have blessed the marriage ceremony of a devout prince here, hence the name Kalyanasundareswarar. Shiva is said to have married Parvati here keeping his promise to her (Sonnavaararivaar).

Arudra Darisanam and Sivaratri are celebrated here.



24. Edirkolpaadi

This shrine is also referred to as Melaittirumanancheri and is located close to Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Airavateswarar and the Ambal Malarkuzhal Maadammai.

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Parvati is said to have been born as a daughter to Bharata Muni, and Siva as the bride groom is said to have been received here by Bharata Muni, hence the name Edirkolpaadi.

Besides Sivaratri, Parvathi Tirukalyanam is celebrated at this shetram.

25.  [Tirumanancheri]

This shrine is located close to Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Arul Vallal, Kalyanasundareswarar and the Ambal Kuyilin Menmozhiammai, Kokilaambaal
The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Samudra Theertham

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati is said to have expressed her desire to Siva to have the experience of an earthly wedding; Siva obliged to the proposal and so she was reborn as the daughter of Bharata Muni. Siva emerged from the lingam at Tirutturutti. Bharata Muni approached Siva and asked for his hand in marriage to Parvati and was married to Siva at this shetram, hence the name Tirumanancheri, and the Lord Kalyanasundareswarar.

Parents desirous of celebrating the marriage of their children throng to this temple and worship the presiding deity.

The Tirukkalyanam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai; Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam and Navaratri are also celebrated here.

26.  [Tirukkurukkai]

This is one of the eight Veeratta sthalams located near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Veeratteswarar and the Ambal Gnanambika
The sthala vriksham is Kadukkai and the Theertham Trishula Ganga
Appar composed the Pathigam

Tirukkurukkai is associated here with the destruction of Manmathan by Siva

Siva is said to have been in a state of meditation under the Kadukkai tree after the destruction of the vain Daksha's yaagam, hence the name Yogeeswarar. The Pazhavaaru river to the north of this town is

known as Gnaana Theertham, as it is believed that the tears of joy that flowed out of Siva in a state of meditation merged with this river.

A rishi by name Deergavahu performed the ritual of visiting several Saivite shrines, and invoking the river Ganges through his Yogic powers offered the waters to Siva. It is said that his arms got shrunk as he did the same at this sthalam, hence Tirukkurukkai.

The annual brahmotsavam festival is conducted during the Tamil month of Masi. The slaying of Kama is enacted on Masi Magham.

27. Karuppariyalur

This Shivastalam is located close to Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Kutram Porutta Natheswarar, Aparadha Kshameswarar and the Ambal kolvalainayaki, Vichitra Balambika

The sthala vriksham is Kokutimullai and the Theertham Indra Theertham

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Indra the king of Devas is said to have attacked Siva with his Vajrayutham and Siva is said to have forgiven him for his hasty act of aggression, hence the name Aparadha Kshameswarar (and Karmanaasapuram for this Shivastalam). Vasishta Muni is said to have worshipped Siva upon the advice of Brahma. Hanuman is also believed to have worshipped Siva here.

It is believed that acts of goodness committed at this shetram, multiply manifold.

Sivaratri is celebrated in a grand scale.

28.  Kurakkukka

This Sivastalam is located near Vaideeswaran Koyil.

The presiding deity is Kuntaleswarar and the Ambl Kuntalalambika Appar composed the Pathigam.

This temple is very closely associated with Karuppariyalur temple nearby, where Hanuman is believed to have worshipped Siva seeking

pardon for the offence of having tried to uproot the Sivalingam at Rameswaram. Siva is said to have blessed Hanuman at Karuppariyalur, and Hanuman is believed to have built a temple for Siva at Kurakkukka.

It is said that even now, during the Tamil months of Chittirai and Vaikasi a pack of monkeys enter the sanctum and make offerings of flowers to the deity.

Sivaratri is celebrated in this temple.

29. Tiruvaalkoliputrur 

This Siva sthalam is located close to Mayiladuturai.
This place is also known as Vaalkoliputrur, Vaaloliputrur or Tiruvaalapputrur, Durgaputtur.

The presiding deity is Manikka Vannar and the Ambal Vandaar Poonkuzhali,Bhramarakundalambika

The sthala vriksham is Vaagai Maram and the Theertham Bhrama Theertham
Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Pandavas and Draupadi worshipped Siva here. Goddess Durga is said to have slain Mahishasuran at Kadaattalaimedu nearby. It is also believed that the serpent Vasuki is said to have resided in a snake hill – Putru, and worshipped Siva here. Siva is said to have blessed Arjuna and revealed His Self.

Durga is being worshipped first, in this temple. The Navagrahams are notably absent in this shrine.

The annual Brahmotsavam festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi. Other festivals celebrated here include Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam, Pankuni Uthram, Aavani Moolam, Aadi Pooram, Navaratri, Vinayaka Chaturti and Skanda Sashti.

30. Tirumannippadikkarai

This Sivastalam is also known as Tiruppazhamanni paddikkarai and is located at a distance of 20 km from Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Neelakantar and the Ambal Amritavalli
The sthala vriksham is Iluppai Maram and the Theertham Brahma Theertham
Appar composed Pathigam on this shetram.

This shrine is also associated with characters from the Mahabharatam. Yudhishtra worshiped Neelakantar, and Arjuna worshiped Padikkarai Nayakar. Duryodhana is said to have poisoned the Brahma Theertham and Siva is said to have converted the poison into celestial nectar. The Brahma Theertham is also known as Amrita Theertham or Nachchuppoikai.

Sivaratri is celebrated in this shetram.

31.  Omampuliyur

This shrine is located at a distance of 18km from Kutralam on the Mayiladuturai Kumbhakonam railroad.

The presiding deity is Tuyartheerthanathar, Pranavapureeswarar and the Ambal Poonkodinayaki, Pushpalalitambika
The sthala vriksham is Ilandai and the Theertham Kollidam
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Siva as Dakshinamurthy is said to have revealed the Pranava Upadesam to Parvati, and hence the name Pranavavyagrapuram.

Vyagrapadar - the saint with tiger's claws and feet - is said to have worshipped here.

Thai Poosam, Maasi Magam, Navaratri and Sivaratri are the annual festivals celebrated here.

32. Tirukkaanaattumullur

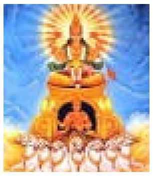
This is a Sivastalam located in the vicinity of Omaampuliyur, near Mayiladuthurai.

The presiding deity is Patanjali Nathar and the Ambal Kaanaar Kuzhali.
The sthala vriksham is Atthi Maram and the Theertham Surya

Pushkarini
Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Patanjali Munivar is said to have worshipped Siva here and this shrine is also known as Madhookavanam.

Vaikasi Visakam and Arudra Darisanam are the festivals celebrated here.

33. Tirunaarayur 

This shrine located close to Mayiladuthurai is associated with Pollaappillayar - who is connected with the legend regarding the recovery of the Tirumurais from the Chidambaram temple by Rajaraja Cholan and Nambiyaandaar Nambi.

The presiding deity is Soundareswarar and the Ambal Tripurasundari
The sthala vriksham is Punnaga Maram and the Theertham Karunya Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that a Naarai (stork), Surya and others are believed to have worshipped here.

Pollaappillaiyaar (formerly Pollaappillaiyaar - one untouched by a chisel) is said to have aided the monarch and the devotee in recovering the "Tirumurais" hidden in a vault in the Chidambaram Temple To Nambiyaandaar Nambi goes the credit of compiling and classifying this colossal collection. He compiled the works of the 3 saints into the 1st through 7th Tirumurais; Manikkavacakar's Tiruvacakam and Tirukkovaiyar into the 8th. He included Tiruvisaippaa and Tiruppallaandu in the 9th and Tirumoolar's Tirumantiram in the 10th. Tirumukhappaasurm and other works were included in the 11th Tirumurai. With the aid of a descendant of Nilakanta Yaazhpaanar he assigned and fitted Panns to the Tevaram Hymns.

The Nambiandar Nambi festival conducted during the Tamil month of Vaikasi and sponsored by the Tiruppanandal Matham witnesses the chanting of the Tirumurais. Other festivals include Navaratri and Skanda Sashti. Images of Rajaraja Chola and Nambiyaandaar Nambi adorn this temple.

34.  Kadambur

This Sivastalam - a veritable art gallery of the 12th century and a unique graceful monument of Dravidian art – is located close to Kattumannargudi, and near Chidambaram.

The presiding deity is Amritaghateswarar and the ambal Jyotiminnammai.

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Indra is said to have worshipped Siva here, to obtain the celestial nectar Amritam and the temple is also known as Karakkovil.

This temple is built in the shape of a chariot on wheels, two on each side, drawn by caprisoned horses in a prancing posture, depicting a heavenly chariot having come down to the earth with Siva as its occupant.

There are also series of sculptures of the rishis and the Gods who are believed to have worshipped Siva here, and interestingly there are labels in 12th century Tamil and in Grantha characters giving the names of each of these figures.

Sivaratri is celebrated here on a grand scale.

35.  Pandanainallur

This Sivastalam also known as Konraivanam, Bhanupuram and Tenkayilai, is located near Chidambaram.

The presiding deity is Pasupateeswarar and the Ambal Veyurutoli Ammai, Venubhujambika.

The sthala vriksham is Sarakkonrai and the Theertham Kadhir Pushkarini

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva upon being angered by Parvati's indifference to him in the middle of a ball game with Lakshmi and Saraswati, cursed her to turn the form of a cow. She was relieved of this curse upon offering worship here, with Murugar as a calf. Kamadhenu, Indra and Vaali are also said to have worshipped here.

The Navagrahams are seen enshrined in a straight line here, unlike in other temples. There is also the Chitrambalam shrine nearby housing Natanapureeswarar and Soundarambikai

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Maasi.

36.  Kanjanoor

This Sivastalam is located in a quiet hamlet in the vicinity of Tiruvaavaduturai, and close to Suryanar Koyil and this shrine is also referred to as Palaasavanam, Bhrammapuri and Agnistalam.

The presiding deity is Agneeswarar and the Ambal Karpagambal

Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma is said to have been blessed with a vision of Siva's marriage with Parvati here. Agni is said to have worshipped Siva here, hence the name Agneeswarar. Legend also has it that Siva blessed Paraasara muni with a vision of the cosmic dance - Mukti tandavam.

Associated with Sukran this is one of the nine Shiva temples in the Thanjavur area linked with the Navagrahams. It is believed that Haradatta Sivacharyar, a Vaishnavite who was originally known as Sudarshanar, is said to have undergone ordeals to prove the tenacity of his devotion for Siva to the fellow Vaishnavites, and images depicting legends related to Haradatta Sivacharyar are seen in this temple.

A festival commemorating Haradatta Sivacharyar is celebrated in the Tamil month of Thai each year. Mahasivaratri, Arudra Darisanam, Navaratri and Aadi Pooram are celebrated here.

37. Tirukkodikka

This Sivastalam is near Chidambaram and all of the multitudes of Gods (Koti) are said to have worshipped at this shrine beautified by countless gardens (kavu), hence Kotikka

The presiding deity is Kodikka Eswarar, Tirukoteeswarar and the Ambal Vadivambikai

The Theertham is Mukkoti Theertham

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have escorted a devotee Haradatta to Kanjanur nearby, and mysteriously disappeared. Vasishtar is said to have installed an image of Ganapati fashioned out of earth.

It is also believed that the Azhwars were asked by Venkatachalapathi of Tirupati to worship Tripurasundari here before offering worship at Tirupati. Agasthyar is said to have helped them cross the Cauveri river, which was in spate. Tripurasundari Amman is then said to have blessed them with a vision of Venkatachalapati

Arudra Darisanam, Kartikai Deepam, Navaratri, Sivaratri, Chitra Pournami, Sivaratri, Aadi Pooram and Vinayaka Chaturthi are the festivals celebrated here.

38.  **Tirumangalakkudi**

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Suryanaar Koyil near Kumbhakonam. It is believed that this temple should be visited first before proceding to Suryanar Kovil enshrining the Nava Grahams.

The presiding deity is Prananatheswarar and the Ambal Mangalambika
The sthala vriksham is Ilava Maram and the Theertham Mangala Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati is said to have been relieved of a curse (wherein she had assumed the form of a parrot); this incident and the divine marriage are believed to have happened on Makara Sankaranti at this shetram - hence Mangala Kshetram.

Panguni Uthiram, Arudra Darisanam, Padinettaam Perukku, Vinayaka Chaturthi, Navaratri, Aadi Pooram and Skanda Sashti are the festivals celebrated here.

39. Tiruppanantaal

This Sivastalam located near Kumbakonam is an Upadesa Stalam with Shiva facing West and Ambal facing East.

The presiding deity is Senchadaiyappar, Arunajateswarar and the Ambal Periyanayaki, Taalavaneswari
The sthala vriksham is Panai and the Theertham Bhrama Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Of the 275 Shivastalams six shrines are associated with Panai maram (Palm Tree).

Legend has it that Siva is said to have bent forward to allow an anxious devotee Tatakai to adorn him with a garland. Kungiliyakkalaya Nayanar is said to have straightened the tilted Shivalingam by virtue of his ardent devotion to the deity

The fact that this is an Upadesa Stalam renders significance to this shrine.

This shrine is under the administration of the Dharumapura Adhinam.

40. Tiruvaappaadi



This Srine is located near Kumbhakonam. This temple is said to have been located on the banks of the Manniyaru before it changed its course. Several natural springs are seen in the temple during the monsoon months.

The presiding deity is Paalugandeeswarar, Ksheerapurinathar and the Ambal Periya Nayaki, Brihannayaki
The sthala vriksham is Athi and the Theertham Ksheerakundam
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Chandikeswarar created a Sivalingam of earth and offered worship here. There are two shrines to Siva, one under the Stala Vruksham and the other in the sanctum. This temple is associated with the familiar legend of a cow offering milk on its own

accord, to a Swayambu lingam. The name Aappaadi arises from the fact that Chandikeswarar was grazing a herd of cows here.

Navaratri is calebrated annually.

41. Tirucheignalur

This Sivastalam is located at Senganoor near Kumbakonam and is said to be the birthplace of Chandesar - the foremost of Shiva's devotees

The presiding deity is Satyagireesar and the Ambal Thozhiyazhi, Sakthi Devi

The Theertham is Manni Nadhi

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva was worshipped here by Subramanya and was blessed with a Paasupatastram before he proceeded to vanquish Soorapadman. Harischandra and several families associated with King Sibi are said to have lived here.

Navaratri is celebrated in this shetram.

42. Tirundudevankudi

This Sivasthalam is located at Tiruvisalur near Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Karkateswarar, Arumarundu Devar and the Ambal Arumarundu Nayaki; Aravinda Nayaki
The Theertham is Pankaja Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legends has it that a crab has worshipped Siva at this shetram and that is the reason for the deity being called Karkateswarar, and the image of a golden crab can be seen on the Sivalingam during the ablution rituals. Siva is said to have in the guise of an elderly person, relieved a devout King of his painful affliction; and said to have directed him to the spot where the Sivalingam is now installed. He is

also said to have promised to reveal to him medicines for other afflictions, hence the name Arumarundu Devar, the Lord of Medicine and Healing.

It is believed that the vegetation covering the temple is of high medicinal value.

43.  **Tiruviyalur** 

This Sivastalam is located close to Tiruvidaimarudur.

The presiding deity is Sivayoginathar, Yoganandeswarar and the AmbalShanthaNayaki;Soundaranayaki
The sthala vriksham is Arasa maram and the Theertham Jatayu Theertham

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma is said to have taken the form of a mortal, worshipped and merged with Siva here. It is believed that Agasthyar worships Siva during Sivaratri. .

Vilvam, Vanni, Punnai, Magizhamaram, Aalamaram, Nelli, Arasamaram are the trees found in this temple.

Sivaratri is celebrated on a grand scale.

44. Kottaiyur

Kottiyur is located near Kumbakonam and is also known as Vilvaranyam and Harendrapuram. This temple is also known as Kodeeswaram.

The presiding deity is Koteeswarar and the Ambal Pandaadiammai, Kaduka Kredambika

Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Sivalingam here is said to have emerged from a castor seed, hence Kottaiyur. The Sivalingam is believed to be composed of several lingams, and hence called Koteeswarar. Atreya rishi performed penances here. Good deeds committed at this shetram are said to multiply several folds in value.

Vinayakar here is Kotivinayakar. Ganesh Chaturthi is an important festival.

45. Innambar

This Sivastalam is located close to Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Ezhuttarinatheswarar and the Ambal Nityakalyani
The sthala vriksham is Palaamaram
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have revealed the grammar of Tamil language to Agasthyar at this place. Airavatam the mythological elephant is also said to have worshipped Siva here.

The entrance to the sanctum and the Sivalingam are huge and the Natarajar image is of great workmanship. Nityakalyani Amman is situated to the right of Siva, while there is a separate shrine for Sugandha Kundalambal in the outer prakaram. Nityakalyani Amman's shrine located close to Siva's shrine is said to represent the Kalyanakkolam of Siva.

Sivaratri is celebatrated in this shetram.

46. Tiruppurampayam

This Sivastalam is located near Tiruvaiyaru, and is said to be one of 24 shrines special to Dakshinamurthy and is surrounded by Manniyaru, Kollidam and the Cauveri.

The presiding deity is Punnaivana Nathar, Saakshi Nathar and the Ambal Karumpadu Solli
The sthala vriksham is Punnai and the Theertham Saptasagara Theertham

Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma is said to have worshipped Siva here. It is believed that this shrine survived the great deluge, and hence the

name Purampayam (Puram-outside) came into being. The Vinayakar at this shrine is referred to as Pralaya Kaala Vinayakar. It is believed that Sambandar caused miracles to happen at this shrine.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Maasi and the annual Vinayakar festival is observed in the Tamil month of Avani. Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darsanam, Vishu, Aadipooram, Navaratri, Skanda Sashti and Taippoosam are celebrated here.

47. Vijayamangai 

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Tiruvaikavur near Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Vijayanathar, Gangajateswarar and the Ambal Mangai Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Purasu Maram and the Theertham Arjuna Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that a cow worshipped Siva and Arjuna is said to have obtained the Pasupatastram after severe penances towards Siva here, hence the name Vijayamangai. Nandi is also said to have worshipped Siva here. It is believed that when Sambandar arrived here, the Kollidam river was in spate, which forced him to compose his Pathigam from across the river.

The annual Brahmotsavam falls in the Tamil month of Chittirai. Other festivals celebrated here are Margazhi Tiruvadirai, Navaratri, Kartikai Deepam and Aadi Pooram.

48.  Tiruvaikavur

This Sivastalam is located in proximity to Tiruppurampayam, near Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Vilvavananthar and the Ambal Valaikkai Nayaki, Sarvajana Rakshaki

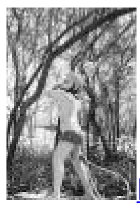
The sthala vriksham is vilvam and the Theertham Brahma Theertham

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Sapta Matas are said to have worshipped Dakshinamurthy here. There is also an image of Veenadhara Dakshinamurthy here. The Vedas in the form of Vilva leaves are also said to have worshipped Siva here.

There are no regular Dwarapalakas here, as according to legend they were sent to protect a devout hunter who worshipped Siva with vilva leaves. Brahma and Vishnu are believed to have acted as Dwarapalakas in their absence, and there are festival images for both. The Nandi faces the entrance portraying his attempt to subdue Yama who had come to bring the hunter's life to an end.

Sivaratri is celebrated here in great splendor.

49.  Kurangaaduturai

This Siva shetram is located near Tiruvaiyaru. There are two shrines Then Kurangaaduturai (Aaduturai) and Vada Kurangaaduturai, because of their location on the North and Southern sides of the river Cauvery, where Sugreevan and Vaali are believed to have worshipped Siva.

The presiding deity is Azhagu Sadaimudinaathar, Dayanideeswarar and the Ambal Azhagu Sadaimudiammai, Jata Makutanayaki
The sthala vriksham is Coconut and the Theertham Cauveri
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vaali is said to have worshipped Siva here at Vada Kurangaaduturai and Sugreeva at Then Kurangaaduthurai. A sparrow is also said to have worshipped here. Hanuman who is said to have lost his tail at Rameswaram while trying to uproot the Siva lingam regained it here. Dayaniteeswarar or Kulaivanangu Naathar is said to have come to the aid of a thirsty devotee in causing a coconut tree to bend down and to provide her with tender coconut

Sivarathri and Arudra Darsanam are celebrated here.

50. Tiruppazhanam

This Siva sthalam is located near Tanjavur and is one the seven Saptastanams of Tiruvaiyaru and is known as Prayanapuri in Sanskrit.

The presiding deity is Aabatsahayar and the Ambal Periyanayaki.
The sthala vriksham is Vaazhaimaram.
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the moon is said to have worshipped Siva.

The Saptastana festival here, where festival images of Siva from Tiruvaiyaru are taken in procession to each of the seven Saptastana temples and is of great significance

51. Tiruvaiyaru

This Siva sthalam is located near Tanjavur. Known as Dakshina Kailasam, this is a Saivite shrine of great significance.

The presiding deity is Aiyaarappar, Panchanadeeswarar and the Ambal Aram Valartta Nayaki, Dharma Samvardhini
The sthala vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Cauvery
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

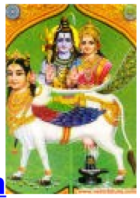
Legend has it that the Ambal is said to have worshipped Siva with two measures of grains. Siva, in the form of a column of light, redeemed a devotee by name Sucharitan from untimely death. Agasthyar is said to have obtained his dwarfed physical stature here.

While Appar was on his trek to Kailasam a divine intervention is said to have miraculously transported him to Tiruvaiyaru the equivalent of Kailasam. This incident is celebrated in the Tamil month of Aadi.

Tiruvaiyaru is known more for the samadhi of one of the foremost composers of Carnatic Music, Saint Tyagaraja.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai, and the float festival is celebrated on Aavani Moolam, while the Appar festival is celebrated in the month of Aadi.

52. Tiruneittanam



This Shivastalam is located to the west of Tiruvaiyaru.

The presiding deity is Neyyadiappar and the Ambal Vaalambikai, Balambika
The Theertham is Cauveri
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Saraswati worshipped at this shrine. Legend also has it that Kamadhenu and Gowtama muni worshipped Siva here.

Dakshinamurthy is portrayed in a standing posture in this shetram.

The Saptastana festival here, where festival images of Shiva from Tiruvaiyaru are taken in procession to each of the seven Saptastana temples is of great significance.

53. Thirupperumpuliyur

This Sivastalam is located close to Thanjavur.

The presiding deity is Vyagrapureeswarar and the Ambal Soundara Nayaki
The Theertham is Kollidam
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vyagrapadar - the saint with tiger's claws and feet - is said to have worshipped Siva at this shetram.

Sivaratri is celebrated on a large scale.

54. Tirumazhapadi

This Siva shetram is located near Tiruvaiyar.

The presiding deity is Mazhuvaadeesar, Vajrastampeswarar and the Ambal Azhagammai

The Theertham is Kollidum.

Appar, Sundarar and Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva performed Taandavam with the Mazhuvaayudam (hence Mazhapadi) for Markandeyar. Purushamriga Munivar is said to have established a shrine for Shiva, and Brahma tried in vain to remove the same, and hence referred to as Vajrastamba Murthi.

Brahmotsavam is celebrated during the Tamil month of Masi. Nandi's marriage with Suyahambikai is celebrated in the month of Pankuni

55. Tiruppazhuvur(Aalanturai)

This siva sthalam is located nearAriyalur

The presiding deity is Aalanturaiyeesar, Vadamoolesar and the Ambal Aruntavanayaki.
The sthala vriksham is Aalamaram and the Theertham Kollidam.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati is said to have worshipped Siva here prior to marrying him. Parasuramar is said to have prayed here and is also said to have made arrangements for the upkeep of religious services here. There is an image of Parasuramar in this shrine. Sambandar's hymns refer to the fact that priests from Kerala were engaged in carrying out worship services here during his time. The word Pazhu refers to the stala vriksham Aalamaram here. The stala vriksham being Aalamaram the presiding deity here is Aalanturaiyeesar or its equivalent Vatamoolesar or Vatatheerthanathar in Sanskrit.

The sculpture of Anantasayana over the gateway of the Ardhamandapam is popularly believed to represent Parasuramar engaged in penance after having killed his mother, in response to his father's command.

Margazhi Tiruvadirai, Aippasi Pournami and Kartikai Deepam are the fesitvals celebrated here.

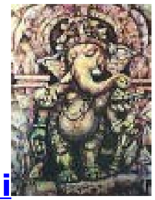
56. Tirukkaanoor

This shrine located near Tanjavur was buried underground and was excavated only during the last century.

The presiding deity is Semmeninatheswarar and the Ambal Sivayoganayaki
The Theertham is Veda Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have appeared as a column of fire before Parvati in answer to her prayers, hence the name Semmeninaathar. Siva is also known as Arumbeswarar and Kaanoor Mulai. Parasuramar is also believed to have worshipped at this shrine.

The sun's rays illuminate the sanctum during the Tamil month of Chittirai for a period of 3 days. Sivaratri and Arudra darsanam is being celebrated here.

57. Anbilalanturai 

This Sivastalam is located near Lalgudi.

The presiding deity is Satyavageeswarar and the Ambal Soundara Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Aalamaram and the Theertham Gayatri Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma from Satyaloka and Vaageesamuni worshipped here, hence the name Satyavageeswarar or Brahmapureeswarar. It is believed that Sambandar sang the praises of Anbil, from across the Kollidam river which was in spate, and that Ganapati leaned forward to hear it and hence Ganapathi in this she tram is called Sevi Saitha Vinayakar.

Sivaratri is celebrated in a grand scale.

58. Tirumaanturai

This shrine is located near Lalgudi.

The presiding deity is Maanturaiappar, Amravaneswarar and the Ambal Azhagammai; Balambal
The sthala vriksham is Maamaram and the Theertham Gayatri Nadi.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Surya, Chandra, Kanvar and Vishnu are said to have worshipped Siva here. Mrikandu Munivar (father of Markandeya) and a deer are said to have worshipped Siva under a mango tree, and this legend is illustrated in the stucco in the temple.

Indra is said to have worshipped Siva to absolve himself of the sin of having deceived Akalya, the wife of Gowtama Rishi.

Besides Sivaratri Arudra Darsanam is celebrated here.

59. Tirupaatrurai

This Sivastalam is located near Tiruverumbur, and Tiruchirappalli.

The presiding deity is Aadi Mudalvar, Moolanathar and the Ambal Moga Nayaki, Mekalambikai.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Markandeya worshipped here, and Siva obliged him by causing enormous quantities of milk to materialize for his daily worship services.

This small temple celebrates Navaratri in the month of Purattasi and Arudra Darisanam in Margazhi. .

60. Tiru Aanaikkaa

This well visited Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Tiruchirappalli and Srirangam This is one of the most revered temples to Siva; and it is also one of the Panchabhoota Stalams signifying the element of water.

The presiding deity is Jambulingam, Jambukeswarar and the Ambal Akhilandeswari
The sthala vriksham is Naaval and the Theertham Cauveri
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

As per the legend Siva is said to have appeared under one of the Jambu trees as a Shiva Lingam. It is also believed that two devotees of Siva were born under the influence of a curse as a white elephant and a spider. The elephant worshipped Shiva with flowers and water brought in its trunk and hence the name Tiru Aanaikka. The spider also worshipped the Lingam by spinning a web on top, to protect it from the falling leaves. Since the elephant's worship would destroy the spider's web, and the spider's web amounted to desecration in the eyes of the elephant, this lead to animosity between the two of such proportion that a fight between them resulted in the death of both. Both of them were reborn as staunch devotees of Siva.

There is a continuous flow of water out of a spring in the sanctum.

The stala vriksham is said to have grown out of a munivar, who offered his worship to Siva and Akhilandeswari.

Adi Sankara is said to have visited the Akhilandeswari shrine, and is said to have adorned her with earrings bearing the symbol of the chakram.

The annual festivals here include the Pankuni Brahmotsavam, Vasanta Utsavam, and the float festival in the Tamil month of Thai, Aadi Pooram and the Pancha Prakara festival.



61. Tiruppainneeli

This Sivastalam is located close to Tiruchirapalli and is one of the Saptastanam Temples of Tiruvanaikkaval. Shiva here is referred to as Aranya Vitankar.

The presiding deity is Neelivananathar, Neelakantar and the Ambal Visalakshi
The sthala vriksham is Vaazhai and the Theertham Vishala Pushkarini

Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have blessed Vasishtar with a vision of the cosmic dance and the dance hall here is known as Ratna Sabha. Siva is said to have blessed Tirunavukkarasar who arrived from Tirupachilasramam after a sumptuous meal on a banana leaf (Painneeli - Vaazhai). Hence the name Tiruppainneeli.

After Siva vanquished the powers of Yama at Tirukkadavur to save Markandeyan, Yama is believed to have gained back his power of control over mortal souls, on worshipping Siva at this shetram.

Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai.

62. Tiruppachilaasramam

This Sivastalam is located on the banks of the Kollidam river near Tiruchi.
The presiding deity is Maatrarivaalar, Saameevaneswarar and the Ambal Angilamangai, Balasundari

The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Brahma Theertham Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Siva is said to have presented Sundarar with thousand copper coins upon hearing eight of his hymns. Later upon hearing another four, Siva is said to have prayed to Vishnu to turn them into gold. The Tapana mandapam is said to be the place where Shva is believed to have blessed Sundarar with gold. Sambandar is said to have relieved the daughter of a devotee, Kolli Mazhavan of the Muyalakan disease.

Sivaratri is celebrated at this shetram.

63. Tiruveengoimalai

This temple is located at Kulittalai in the vicinity of Tiruchirappalli

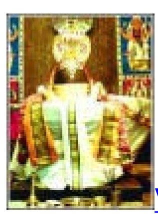
The presiding deity is Maragathachaleswarar and the Ambal Maragathavalli
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Agasthyar assumed the form of a housefly to fly past the thousands of waiting devotees, to worship Siva. Hence the name Eengoimalai.

The temple has been designed in such a manner that the sun's rays fall on the Maragata lingam on Sivaratri, when it is found that the lingam emits different hues of colour.

During Thai Poosam, the festival image of the deity is taken across the Cauveri to Kadambathurai. Other festivals are Arudra Darisanam, and Aadi Perukku.

Chola Naadu - South of Kaveri (128 Temples)

1.  Vaatpokki 

This Sivastalam is located at Ratnagiri near Kulittalai, by road from Tiruchirappalli.

The presiding deity is Vatpokkinathar, Ratnagireeswarar, and the Ambal is Haravatkeswari.
Appar composed the Pathigam on this shetram.

The Ratnagireeeswarar temple is built on a hillock reached by a flight of 1000 steps while the Sivapureeswarar temple is at ground level. The idols of Siva and Ambal face each other in the Upadesa posture.

A legend has it that Indra, Surya, Adi Sesha, Durga, Agasthya Muni and the Sapta Matas have worshipped the presiding deity at this shetram. It is also believed that this hill temple is being worshipped by lightning once in 12 years

It is considered to be of significance to visit the temples at Kadambar Kovil, Eengoi Malai and Ratnagiri (located close by) on the same day.

On "Arudra Darisanam"day in Margazhi, Lord Nataraja is taken in procession on a decorated chariot. The deity is taken to Kadambanturai on Tai poosam day with the convergence of deities from several temples, close by. The procession of the deity on a horse mount, during Panguni attracts large crowd of pilgrims from the surrounding villages.

2.  **Kadambar Kovil** 

This Sivastalam is located at Kulittalai by road from Tiruchirappalli, is considered to be one of the five-kadamba shrines.

The presiding deity is Kadambavananthar, Anantheswarar and the Ambal Mutrilamulaiammai, Abhirami.

The sthala vriksham is Kadambamaram and the Theertham is Cauveri.

Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma is said to have conducted the chariot festival here, and Vishnu is said to have prayed to Siva prior to recovering the Vedas from Somasran. Hence the shetram is also called Brahmapuram and Chaturvedapuri.

A fine carving of the Saptamatas are engraved in the sanctum behind the Sivalingam. Muthuswamy Deekshitar's Kriti *Neelakantham Bhaje* sings the glory of this shrine.

The annual Brahmotsavam is being celebrated during the Tamil month Masi. During Taipoosam, deities from nearby temples of Kattupathur, Sivayam, Eengoimalai, Musiri, Vellur and Rajendram are brought in a grand procession to this shetram.

3. Tirupparaaitturai 

This shetram is located at Tirupparaaitturai, close to Tiruchirapalli, on the banks of the Akhanda Kaveri considered to be the widest point in the course of the river.
This shrine is also known as Rajagambiranallur.

The presiding deity is Paraitturai Nathar, also called Dharukavananathar and the Ambal Pasum Pon Nayaki, Hemavarnambika.
Sambandar and Appar composed the Nayanmar Pathigam

Legend has it that a devout Chola King, upon his seeing a golden bird frequently flying out of an anthill dug out the Sivalingam from it. It is interesting to find the sun's rays illuminate the sanctum on the 18th day of the Tamil month of Purattasi.

The Brahmotsavam is celebrated during the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

4. Tirukkarkudi (Uyyakkondan Malai)

This Shivastalam is located close to Tiruchirappalli.

The presiding deity is Uchinathar, Ujjeevaneswarar and the Ambal Anjanakshi
Sambandar, Appar, and Sundarar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Tirisirand, one of the characters from the Ramayanam, worshiped this hill temple. This hill temple has five Prakarams, with six feet thick circular surrounding walls. There are two sanctums for Anjanakshi Amman, one facing the East and the other West. Shiva's sanctum faces west, and Ardhanareeswarar occupies the Eastern niche, while Durga and Brahma occupy niches in the Northern wall of the sanctum.

Nandivarma Pallavan built this temple, and the Tevaram hymns and Periyapuranam refer to this shrine as "Karkudi".

This temple is a formidable fortress; by virtue of the layers of strong walls surrounding it, and this temple is under the administration of the Dharmapuram Adheenam

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Panguni.

5.  **Uraiyur**

This shetram is located close to Tiruchirappalli, which was the ancient capital of the early Cholas. Tiruppaanaazhwar, one of the Vaishnavite Azhwars was born here. Uraiyur is also known as Kozhimanagaram as legend holds that a fowl blessed with divine powers defeated an elephant in a duel.

The presiding deity is Panchavarneswarar and the Ambal Kantimathi.

The sthala vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Panchavarna Theertham.

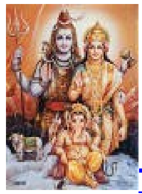
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Garuda, Kasyapa Muni and Karkotakan are said to have worshipped at this shetram. Siva is said to have manifested himself in five different shades of colour to Uttanga Munivar as Ratna Lingam in the morning, Spatika Lingam at noon, Gold Lingam in the afternoon, Diamond lingam at night and Chitra lingam later on at midnight.

Several legends are associated with this temple and the one involving the merger of six Sivalingams into one is commemorated during the annual festival in the Tamil month of Vaikasi. This legend states that a Chola king saw the five daughters of Nagarajan worshipping a Sivalingam each, on the banks of the Nagatheertham. He married the youngest of these princesses and requested his father in law for the Sivalingam that was held in worship by Nagarajan. He handed over a half of the Sivalingam to his daughter, who in turn handed it along with the five Sivalingams worshipped by the siblings; all of these merged into one under a Vilva tree. It is believed that the present temple originated under this tree.

There are also shrines to Ambal, Vinayakar, Subramanyar and Mahalakshmi. The main sanctum faces east while the Ambal shrine faces south. Images of Ganesha, Dakshinamurthy, Vishnu, Brahma and Durga occupy the niches around the sanctum.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi, and the Panchapraharam festival in the month of Aadi.

6.  **[Tiruchirappalli]**

This Sivastalam is a rock cut temple on a hill and forms one of the most prominent landmark in Tiruchirappalli, reached by a flight of steps on the way to the famous Ucchi Pillayar temple. The Rock Fort Temple complex is a collection of three temples - the Manikka Vinayakar temple at the foot of the hill, the Uchhi Pillayar Koyil at the top of the hill and the Taayumaanavar Koyil Shivastalam on the hill.

The presiding deity is Taayumaanavar, Matrubhuteswarar and the Ambal Mattuvaarkuzhali; Sugandha Kundalambika
The Theertham is Kaveri.
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the demon ruler Tirisiran worshiped Siva, and hence gained the name Tirisirapuram and corrupted as Tiruchirappalli.

It is also believed that the name Tri-Shikharam or Tirisirapuram came into being, since Siva, Parvati and Vinayaka occupy the three peaks on this hill.

Legend also has it that since Siva attended to the call of a devotee in labor in the guise of a woman (mother), he is called Matrubhuteswarar.

Tiruchirappalli is hailed as the Dakshina Kailasam, as the hill is said to be one of the three pieces that flew off the Himalayas during a fierce tussle between Adi Sesha, the mythical snake and Vayu the Wind God. The other two shetrams are Triconamalee and Sri Kalahasti.

This is a fascinating rock cut temple, and the approach to the temple is through a flight of covered stairs.

The annual Brahmotsavam is during the Tamil month of Chittirai.
Aadi Pooram and the float festival in Panguni are also other important festivals.

7. [Tiruverumbur]

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Tiruchirappalli.

The presiding deity is Erumbeeswarar and the Ambal Saurabhya Kudalaambal, Narunkuzhal nayaki.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

The legend has it that the Devas fearing Karan (The demon of the Kara Dhooshana duo of Ramayana) are said to have assumed the form of ants and have worshipped Siva at this shetram. Responding to their prayers the Siva lingam is said to have tilted forward to accept their worship.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

8. [Nedunkalam]

This is a Sivastalam in the vicinity of Tiruverumbur near Tiruchirappalli.

The presiding deity is Nedunkalanathar, Nityasundareswarar and the Ambal Oppila Nayaki.
The Theertham is Surya Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that when Parvati worshipped Siva at this shetram with the intention of being united in marriage. Siva in disguise grasped her hand and Parvati ran away and hid in a grove. Hence this shrine is also known as Olimadicholai. It is also believed that Agastya Muni worshipped Siva here.

The Tamil pathigams of Nayanmars are depicted in the temple tower.

Pankuni Utthiram and Vaikasi Visaakam are the major festivals celebrated here.

9. Melaittirukkattuppalli

This Sivastalam is located close to Budalur, near Thanjavur, on the Southern bank of the river Kudamurutti.

The presiding deity is Theeyadiappar, Agneeswarar and the Ambal Vaarkonda Mulaiyammai, Soundara Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Surya Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that when Uraiyur got submerged in a sandstorm, the Queen of the Chola monarch of Uraiyur, who was a staunch devotee of Siva managed to find solace in Tirukkattuppalli. Siva blessed her and relieved her of the scorching heat that ravaged the region.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated during the Tamil month of Pankuni.

10. Tiruvalampozhil

This temple is located in the vicinity of Tiruppoonturutti, near Tanjavur.

The presiding deity is Atmanathar and the Ambal Gnanambika
The sthala vriksham is Aalamaram and the Theertham Kudamurutti River
Appar composed the Pathigam on this temple.

Legend has it that the Ashta Vasus worshipped Siva here. Siva, at this shetram is also known as Vadamooleswarar.

Sivaratri and Skanda Sashti are celebrated in this temple.

11. Tiruppoonturutti

This Sivastalam is located near Tiruvaiyaru between the rivers Kaveri and Kudamurutti. This is one of the Sapta Sthana Temples of Tiruvaiyaru, also known as Pushpavanam. The Saptastana temples of Tiruvaiyaru are Tiruppanturai, Tiruppazhanam, Tiruchottruturai, Tiruvedikkudi, and Tirukkandiyur.

The presiding deity is Poonturutti Nathar, Pushpavana Nathar and theAmbalisUruvudaiyambikai
The Thertham is Kasyapa Theertham.

Appar's pathigam Angamaalai was composed here.

Legend has it that Vishnu and Lakshmi, Indra and Kasyapar, are said to have worshipped Shiva here.

Appar is said to have spent a good part of his life here and this shrine represents the first point of interaction between him and Sambandar.

It is believed that to allow Siva to have a clear sight of Appar and Sambandar arriving together at the shrine Nandi is said to have moved aside.

Dakshinamurthy is portrayed in this temple with a veena, and is called 'Veena dhara Dakshinamurthy'.
The saptastanam festival during the Tamil month of Chittirai involving a visit by Aiyarappar to each of the saptastanams is of great importance here.

12.  **Tirukkandiyur**

This Siva shetram is near Tanjavur and is one of the eight Veeratta Stalams associated with Siva. The eight Veeratta Stalams are Tiruvatikai, Tirukkurukkai, Tirukkadavur, Tiruvazhuvur, Tirukkovalur, Tirupppariyalur, Tirukkandiyur and Tiruvirkudi. Tiruvazhuvur is considered to be a Tevara Vaippustalam, as it has no Patikams dedicated to it.

There is also a Divya Desam of Vishnu across this temple sung by the Alwars.

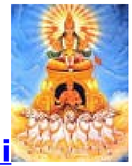
The presiding deity is Veeratteswarar and the Ambal Mangalanayaki.

The sthala Vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Kapaala Theertham

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that upon the request of the Devas, Siva removed the fifth head of Brahma, because of which Brahma was causing great misery to others. There is also a shrine to Brahma in this temple.

The Saptastana festival is conducted during the Tamil month Chittirai.

13. Tiruchotrutturai 

This Sivastalam is located at Kandiyur near Tanjavur. This is one of the Saptastanams of Tiruvaiyaru.

The presiding deity is Oppillachelvar, Odanavaneswarar and the AmbalOppillaAmmai;Annapurani
The Theertham is Surya Theertham. Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Gowtama, Indra and Surya worshiped Siva.

Shiva and Ambal are said to have provided a number of devotees with food, with rice that grew in the paddy fields close by and gained the name Annam Padaitta Vayal. Siva is also referred to as "Sorudaiyan", and this shrine Annavatarastalam.

The Saptastana festival during the Tamil month Chittirai, where the festival image of Siva of Tiruvaiyaru is brought in procession is a grand one.

14. Tiruvedikkudi

This Sivastalam is located near Thanjavur and is considered to be one of
the Saptastanams of Tiruvaiyaru.

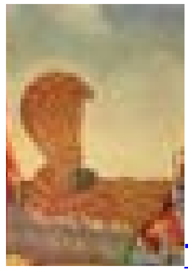
The presiding deity is Vedapureeswarar and the Ambal Mangayarkarasi
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma and the Vedas are said to have worshipped Siva here, hence the name Vedikkudi. Siva at this shrine is also known as Vaazhaimadunaathar.

It is interesting to find Ganesha in a reclining posture listening to the Vedas and is called Vedappillayar.

It is observed that the rays of the sun illuminate the sanctum for a period of 3 days from the 13th day of the Tamil month of Panguni.

The annual Brahmotsavam falls in the Tamil month of Chittirai.

15. **Tenkudittitai.**

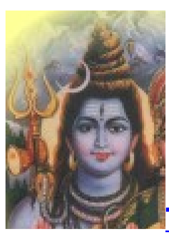
This Sivastalam is located at Tittai near Tanjavur and the name comes from the temple's location on sand dunes between the rivers Vennar and Vettar.

The presiding deity is Pasupateeswarar, Vasishteswarar and the Ambal Ulaka Nayaki, Sugandhamundalambika
The stala Vriksham is Karuvelamaram and the Theertham Chakra Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Vedas, Vasishtar, Gowtama, Adi Seshan and Vishnu are said to have worshipped here.

The Adhrnareeswarar image in the niche of the sanctum shows Parvati constituting the right half of Siva, in contrast to the norm, where she occupies his left.

The annual Brahmotsavam as well Vasishtar's marriage with Arundhati is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

16. **Tiruppullamangai**

Known as Aalanturai this shetram is located at Pasupathi Koil near Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Aalanturai Naathar, Vadatheertha Nathar and the Ambal Alliyankothai
The sthala Vriksham is Aalamaram and the Theertham Shiva Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Siva is said to have consumed the poison that emanated from the churning of the milky ocean here - hence the name Aalanturai.

It is also believed that Parvati is said to have taken the form of a Chakravaha bird and worshipped Siva here, hence the name Pullamangai.

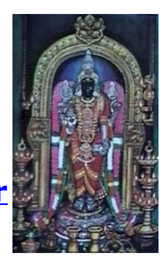
The Saptastanam festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Pankuni.

17.  [Tiruchakkrappalli]

This Sivastalam is located at Aiyampettai near Kumbakonam and is one of the seven shrines associated with the Sapta Matas – Abhirami. The other being *Pullamangai* (Chamundi), Thazhaimangai (Mahendri), Soolamangai (Kaumari), Arimangai (Maheswari), Nandimangai (Vaishnavi), Pasupatimangai (Varahi).

The presiding deity is Alanturaiyeesar, Chakravageswarar and the Ambal Alliyamkothai, Devanayaki
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vishnu obtained his discus (Chakram) after worshipping Siva here, hence the name Chakrapalli.It is also believed that Indra and his son Jayanta prayed to Siva at this shetram.

18. [Tirukkarukavoor] 

This Sivastalam is located close to Papanasam, near Kumbakonam.

ThisShivastalamis known more for its shrine to Garbarakshakambika.

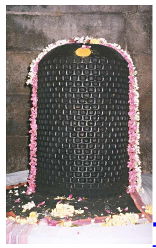
The presiding deity is Mullaivananthar, Madhavivaneswar and the Ambal Karumpanaiyaalammai, Garbharakshakamba

The sthala vriksham is Mullai and the Theertham Brahma Theertham

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati assisted a helpless lady in her motherhood and saved her of her offspring, and hence the name "Karukaavoor".

Worship at this shetram is believed to help barren couple in obtaining children. The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

19.  **Tirupaalaitturai.**

This is a Sivastalam in the vicinity of Papanasam near Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Paalvanna Nathar and the Ambal Dhavala Vennakaimangai
The Theertham is Cauveri

Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva vanquished a tiger sent by the arrogant rishis of Dharukavanam, at this shetram. Vasishtar, Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, Arjuna are said to have worshipped here.

It is also believed that Lord Rama has installed 108 Sivalingams to expiate the sins that he had committed by killing the demons Karan and Dhooshanan.

Vaikasi Visakam, Aippasi Pournami and Kartikai Deepam are important festivals.

20.  **Tirunallur**

This Sivastalam is located near Kumbakonam.

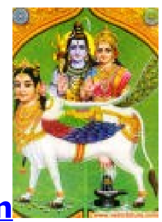
The presiding deity is Periyandeswarar, Kalyana Sundareswarar and the Ambal Kalyanasundari
The Theertham is Saptasagara Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that at this shetram Agasthyar is said to have been blessed with a vision of the marriage of Siva and Parvathi. Bhrigu Muni and Narasimhar are said to have worshipped here.

Tirunallur is also referred to as Dakshina Kailasam; and it is related to the legend of the trial of strength between Vayu and Adisesha where a peak of Mount Meru fell at Nallur and formed a Sivalingam.

The Sivalingam here is believed to manifest itself in five different colors in a day, and hence the deity is also called Panchavarneswarar.

Commemorating Appar's surrender at the deity's feet here, the practice of placing "Satari" containing the imprint of the deity's feet on the heads of devotees, as in Vaishnavite temples, is carried out here.

21. Aavoor Pasupateeswaram 

This temple is located at Govindakudi near Kumbakonam

The presiding deity is Aavoorudaiyar, Pasupateeswarar and the Ambal Mangalambika
The sthala Vriksham is Arasamaram and the Theertham Kamadhenu Theertham.
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legends has it that Kamadhenu is said to have come down to the earth at this shetram and worshipped Shiva.

Sivaratri is celebrated at this shetram.

22.  Satthi Mutram

This Sivastalam is situated at Sathi Mutram close to Patteeswaram also called Pazhayarai.

The presiding deity is Sivakkozhuntheesar and the Ambal is Periyanayaki.
The Theertham is Satthi Mutra Vaavi.

The Pathigam is composed by Appar.

Legend has it that Siva appeared as a huge column of light "Jyotiswaroopam" in front of Parvati while she meditated upon him and later she embraced him. Hence the deity is also called Sivakkozhundeeswarar and Sathi Mutham.

An image of Siva and Parvati in the embracing posture, associated with the legend, is enshrined in the temple. The shrines for Natarajar and the Sarabeswarar are of importance here.

Appar is said to have prayed to surrender at the feet of Siva.

The annual Brahmotsavam falls during the Tamil month of Chittirai.

23.  Patteeswaram

This Shivastalam is near Kumbakonam. The Chola king, who had Pazhiyarai (Patteeswaram) as one of his capitals, patronized this shrine.

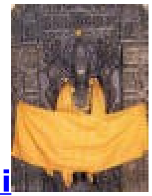
The presiding deity is Patteeswarar, Dhenupureeswararand the Ambal Palvalai Nayaki.
The Theertham is Gnana Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that the calf of Kamadhenu is said to have worshipped Siva here.

The Koti Theertham well in the temple is said to have been created by Rama and is considered to be equivalent to Dhanushkoti.

Siva is said to have blessed Sambandar with an umbrella lined with pearls, to protect him from the scorching summer sun, and is said to have requested Nandi to move aside, in order to be able to look at the sight of the arrival of Sambandar.

Rama's worshipping of Siva seeking pardon for the sin of having slained Vaali is commemorated each year during the Tamil month of Margazhi.

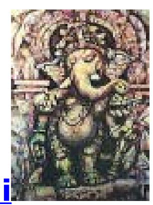
24. Pazhayaarai Vadathali 

This temple is located at an elevation near Patteeswararm near Kumbhakonam.

The presiding deity is Dharmapureeswarar and the Ambal Vimalanayaki
The sthalaVriksham is Aalamaram and the Theertham Soma Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Chandra worshipped at this shrine.

Interestingly, Ardhanareeswarar occupies the rear niche of the sanctum

25. Tiruvalanchuzhi 

This Shivastalam in the vicinity of Swamimalai

The presiding deity is Karpaka Nathar, Khabartheesar and the Ambal Periya Nayaki, Brihannayaki.
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Durvasa muni is said to have carried out a yagnam at this shetram, and the Devas who attended it are said to have established several Siva Lingams. It is believed that when Cauveri river went back into the ground, Heranda Muni went to retrieve it and brought it back to the surface in this shrine after making a complete circle to the right, hence the name Valanchuzhi.

It is also believed that when the milky ocean -Ksheera Samudram- was churned by the Devas, they fashioned out of the foam that was emanated, a white colored image of Ganapati called Sweta

Vinayakar. Indra the King of Devas is said to have had this image installed at this shetram.

The Vinayakar shrine is encountered soon after entering the temple complex.

Vinayaka Chaturthi is celebrated on a grand scale.

26.  **Tirukkudamookku**

This temple is located in Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Kumbeswarar and the Ambal Mangalanayaki Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

The Mangalambikai shrine here is revered as a Shakti Peetham (Mantra Peetham). The Mahamagam festival associated with this temple attracts crowds from all over India.

Legend has it that during the great deluge, it is believed that Siva caused the Amritakalasam - the pot holding the divine nectar - to stall here, and the shrine is said to have been built and consecrated by Bhrama.

The huge Mahamagam tank is surrounded by 16 picturesque mandapams, dating back to the 16th century.

Kumbeswarar representing as a Sivalingam fashioned out of earth, is said to have been made by Siva himself in the guise of a hunter - Kiratamurthy.

Moorka Nayanaar is one of the 63 Nayanars associated with this temple.

The annual festival in the Tamil month of Masi is well attended. The Mahamaham tank is the center of great festivity once every 12 years during Maasi Magam.

27. Tirukudandaikeezhkottum 

This Sivastalam is a grand temple in the temple town of Kumbhakonam and is known for its grand shrine to Nataraja - Aadalvallaar

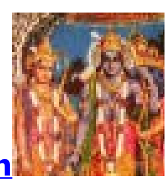
The presiding deity is Nageswara Swamy and the Ambal Periya Nayaki.
The sthala Vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham is Naaga Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam on this shetram

Offering worship at Kudandai Keezhkottam **Nageswarar temple in the morning, and at the temples** Tirunageswaram **and** Tiruppampuram**, located closeby during noon and in the evening on a given day is considered to be of special significance.**

Legend has it that Surya is said to have worshipped here to regain his lost splendour. The temple tank is also known as Surya Theertham. . Also known as "Vilvavanam", it is believed that a vilva leaf from the pot carrying the celestial nectar had drifted away and landed here. Aadi Seshan is said to have worshipped Siva at this shetram.

The Sun's rays fall on Nageswarar in the sanctum on the 11th through the 13th day of the Tamil month Chittirai and hence this place is also called Bhaskarakshetram.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated during the Tamil month of Pankuni.

28. Kudandaikkaaronam 

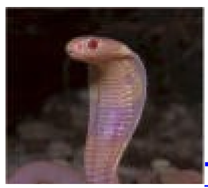
This Siva sthalam is located in Kumbakonam town.

The presiding deity is Kasi Viswanathar and the Ambal Tenaar Mozhi; Kasi Visalakshi
The Theertham is Maamanga Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam

The Kasi Viswanathar temple is associated with the Mahamagam festival, which occurs once every 12 years.

Rama and Lakshmana are said to have worshipped Shiva here during their search for Sita, and acquired Rudramsam, to enable them to fight Ravana. Legend has it that the nine sacred rivers of India, prayed to Shiva at Banares (Viswanathar) to be absolved of the sins they aquired being washed away by bathers. To have their wish fulfilled they were directed to bathe in the Mahamagam tank and worship Aadi Kumbheswarar. Viswanathar of Kaasi is believed to have manifested himself here at Kumbhakonam.

Masi Magam is the most important annual festival celebrated. Other festivals include Arudra Darisanam, Kartikai Deepam, Aadi Pooram and Navaratri.

29.  **Tirunageswaram**

This shetram is located at Uppiliappan Kovil near Kumbhakonam.

The presiding deity is Nageswarar and the Ambal Kunramulainayaki, Girikuchambal
The Theertham is Surya Pushkarini
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Aadi Sesha, Dakshan and Kaarkotakan worshipped Shiva here.

This temple is known for its shrine to Raahu, one of the nine celestial bodies - Navagraham - hence a Navagrahastalam. There is a separate shrine for Raahu in one of the Prakarams.

The annual Brahmotsavam is observed in the Tamil month of Kartikai while the Sekkizhaar festival is celebrated in the month of Vaikasi.

30.  [Tiruvidaimarudur]

This Sivastalam located in the vicinity of Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Marudavaanar, Mahalingeswarar and the Ambal Perunalamaamulaiyaal, Brihadsundarakuchambika
The sthala Vriksham is Marudamaram and the Theertham Cauvery
Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Sarasathi, Lakshmi, Kaali, and the Vedas, Vasishtar, Skanda, Vishnu and Agastya worshiped Siva. It is believed that those suffering from ill health, caused by evil spirits are said to find relief through prayers offered at this shrine and circumambulating the outermost prakaram.

This huge temple is one of the greatest Saivite shrines in Tamilnadu and is referred to as Madhyarjuna Kshetram and is said to be on par with Chidambaram and Varanasi. Madhyarjunam translates into 'Idai Marudu' in Tamil. Marudu stands for the stala vruksham maruda maram. The colossal Nandi here is found seated majestically.

This temple is surrounded on four corners by temples dedicated to Viswanathar, Rishipureeswarar, Aatmanathar and Chokkanathar and hence gained the name "Pancha Lingastalam".

It is said that during the abhishekam to Chokkanathar rendering of music in megaraagakurinji raaga would result in a bountiful monsoon.

31.  [Ten Kurangaaduturai]

This Sivastalam is located at Aaduturai near Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Aabatsakayeswarar and the Ambal Pavalakkodiyammai.

The Theertham is Sakhaya Theertham

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Hanuman and Sugreeva worshipped here, and Siva is said to have revealed a vision of his Cosmic dance to Sugreeva. It is also believed that Rama, at this place, killed Vaali.

The festivals celebrated here include Arudra Darisanam, Navaratri and Sivaratri.

32. Tiruneelakkudi

This Sivastalam is located near Aaduturai

The presiding deity is Neyyaadi Nathar, Neelakanda and the Ambal Periya Nayaki, Uma
The Sthala Vriksham is Palaamaram
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Varuna and the celestial nymphs offered worship here.
It is believed that during the abhisheka ritual, the Siva Lingam absorbs half the quantity of the sesame oil offered to the deity.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated during the Tamil month of Chittirai



33. Vaikanmadakkovil

This Siva sthalam is located near Kumbakonam and Aaduturai.

The presiding deity is Vaikanathar and the Ambal Kombil Ilankothai, Vaikalambika.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vishnu, Lakshmi and Brahma are said to have worshipped Siva here. Siva is also referred to as Brahmapureeswarar.

Pankuni Uthiram is the main function celebrated here annually.

34. Tirunallam

This Sivastalam is located at Konerirajapuram between Kumbakonam and Karaikkal.

The presiding deity is Uma Maheswarar and the Ambal Mangala Nayaki
The sthala Vriksham is Bhadraksha, and the Theertham Bhrama Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Bhumadevi was instructed by Mahavishnu to build this temple; hence it gained the name Bhumiswaram. It is also believed that the ruler of this place, king Pururavas was cured of leprosy and he in turn gilded the temple Vimana with gold and instituted the celebration of Voices full moon festival.

The annual Brahmotsavam is during the Tamil month of Vaikasi. Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam, Sivaratri, Aadi Pooram, and Skanda Sashti are the other festivals celebrated here.

35. Tirukkozhambam



This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Tiruvavaduturai near Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Kokileswarar and the Ambal Soundara Nayaki
The Theertham is Madhu Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that a scholar who was cursed by Indra to assume the form of a cuckoo, prayed Lord Siva at this shetram and was relieved of the curse, hence Kokileswaran and the place is called Kokilapuram.
It is also believed that Parvati took the form of a cow and worshipped Siva and the hoof marks of a cow are seen on the Shivalingam

The annual Brahmotsavam is during the Tamil month of Thai.

36. Tiruvavaduturai

This Siva sthalam is located near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Masilamaneesar, Gomukteesar and the Ambal Oppilamulaiyammai, Atulakuchanayaki.
The sthala vriksham is Arasamaram and the Thertham Mukti Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati worshipped Siva in the form of a cow. Shiva is said to have displayed this shrine as Tiruvarur, and himself as Tyagarajar to Muchukunda Chola.
The stalavriksham Arasamaram is said to represent the Devas. Yama is said to have worshipped Siva at this shetram. Tirumoolar composed his Tirumantiram under the Arasa maram.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the month of Thai (Capricorn), and Rathasaptami is considered very significant.

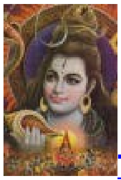
37.  **Tirutturutti**

This Siva shetram is at Kutralam near Mayiladuturai. . It is also known as Choleeswaram

The presiding deity is Sonnavaararivar, Ukta Vedeeswarar and the Ambal Mukizhambikai.
The Sthala Vriksham is Kutrala Maram and the Theertham Kaveri
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati is said to have expressed her desire to Siva to have the experience of an earthly wedding; Siva obliged and so she was reborn as the daughter of Bharata Muni. Responding to the prayers of Bharata Muni Siva emerged from the lingam at Tirutturutti and lent His hand in marriage to Parvati. The name Sonnavaararivaar stems from this legend that Siva kept his word and the name Manavalanathar is attributed to Him on marrying Parvati.
Agni and Varunan are said to have been blessed by Shiva here.

The annual Brahmotsavam is observed in the Tamil month of Chittirai.

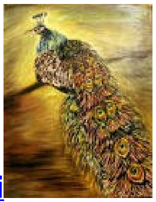
38.  **Tiruvazhundur**

This Sivastalam at Terazhandur is located in the vicinity of Mayiladuturai
It is one of the 78 Maadakkoyils built at an elevation by King Chenkanna Cholan.

The presiding deity is Vedapureeswarar and the Ambal Soundara Nayaki..
The Theertham is Sidhaamritam.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Devas, Ashtadikpalakas and the Vedas worshipped Shiva here, hence the name Vedapureeswarar.
Terezhundur is also associated with the legend of Siva's marriage with Parvati
Legend also has it that the chariot of King Oordvaradan got stuck in this town and hence the name Terazhundur.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai. Other festivals include Kartikai Deepam, and Surya Pooja in the month of Maasi.

39. Mayiladuturai 

This is a vast with several gopurams and mandapams in the town of Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Vallal, Mayuranathar and the Ambal Anjalnayaki, Abhayambika.
The sthala vriksham is Maamaram
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that after her father's Daksha Yagnam, Dakshayani (Parvati) took the form of a peacock and worshipped Siva. Later Siva also is believed to have taken a peacock form, and performed the Gowri Tandavam and united with her.

The Tirupppariyalur Veerattam where the Dakshayagnam is believed to have been performed is located at a distance of 10 km from this temple. Near the bathing ghats on the banks of the river Cauveri, is the Kasi Viswanathar temple with vimanams resembling those at Benares.

The annual festival Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

40. Vilanagar

This Sivastalam is located close to Mayiladuturai enroute to Tarangambadi.

The presiding deity is Turai Kaattum Vallalaar, Ucheeraaneswarar and the Ambal Turai kattum valli.
The sthala Vriksham is Vizhal and the Theertham Cauveri.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that when Sambandar was on his way to Mayiladuturai, Siva is said to have caused the floods in the river Cauveri to recede, and pointed out this shrine to him. Hence the shetram is also called Turai Kaattu Vallal.

Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam, Aadi Perukku, and Aadi Pooram are the festivals celebrated here.

41. Tirupppariyalur

This Siva sthalam is located at Parasalur near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Veeratteswarar and the Ambal Ilankombanaiyaal; Balambika
The Theertham is Homa Kundam
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Devas are believed to have got rid of their fear caused by the demon Dharuka by worshipping Siva at this shetram. This temple is associated with the story of Dakshan's yagnam, where Dakshan and his ego were vanquished.

Sundays during the Tamil month of Kartikai are considered important, and the festivals celebrated include Arudra Darisanam, Aadi Pooram

42. Tiruchemponpalli 

This Siva sthalam is located at Chemponar Kovil near Mayiladuturai .

The presiding deity is Swarnapureeswarar and the Ambal Maruvaar Kuzhali, Sugandhavana Nayaki
The Theertham is Surya Pushkarini
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Indra and Kubera worshipped Siva here. Rathi Devi is believed to have prayed here to get united with Manmathan.

The Sun's rays fall on the sanctum for a period of 11 days from the 7th day of the month of Aries in this Maadakkovil built at an elevation.
The annual Brahmotsavam is held in the Tamil month of Chittirai

43. Tirunanipalli

This Sivastalam is located near Mayiladuturai

The presiding deity is Natrunaiyappar and the Ambal Malaiyaan Madandai, Swarnambika
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam

Shiva is also known as Swarnapureeswarar and gave his dancing vision to Sambandar.

Sambandar's mother is said to have hailed from this village.

44. Tiruvalampuram

This Siva sthalam is located near Poompuhaar.

The presiding deity is Valampurinathar and the Ambal Vatuvakirkannammai

Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam

Legend holds that Vishnu worshipped Shiva to receive a Valampuri Sanghu.
It is also believed that Heranda Muni who went into the ground in search of Cauveri river at Tiruvalanchuzhi is said to have re-emerged here.

The annual Brahmotsavam festival is observed in the month of Thai.

45. Tirutalaichandaadu

This Siva sthalam is located near Poompuhaar
The presiding deity is Sangu Nayakar, Shankarunatheswarar and the Ambal Soundara Nayaki
The Theertham is Cauveri
Sundarar composed thePathigam

Legend has it that Vishnu worshipped Siva here to acquire Panchajanyam. (Talai Changu), the greatest of all Sangu (Conch)
It is Interesting to note that the legend associated with this temple is the same as in Tiruvalampuram.

Chitra Pournami is one of the important festivals celebrated here.

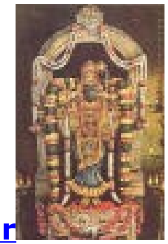
46. Aakkoor

Located near Mayiladuturai, this Shivastalam is a "Maadakkovil" built by Ko Chenkkan Cholan, at an elevation, which is also known as Shankharanyam. This temple is also known as Taantonrimaadam - that which appeared on a self made hill.

The presiding deity is Taantonreesar, Swayambu Nathar and the Andal Vaalarankanni, Katkora Netri
The sthala Vriksham is Sarakkonrai and the Theertham Kumuda Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva appeared in the guise of one of the 1000 guests - Aayirattil Oruvar, at a feast offered by a devout Chola monarch. An image of this manifestation is seen in this temple.

Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam are important festivals celebrated here.

47. Tirukkadayur 

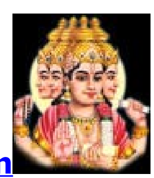
This Sivasthalam is located near Mayiladuthurai.

The presiding deity is Amritaghateswarar and the Ambal Abhirami
The sthala vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Amrita Pushkarini
Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Markandeya was saved from the clutches of death (Yama) by Shiva. The conquest of Yama is acknowledged through celebration of the 60th and 80th birth anniversaries of pilgrims visiting this shetram.

The Shivalingam is hailed as a manifestation of the celestial nectar, obtained by the Devas, and hence the name Amritaghateswarar. The Shankhabhishekam to the deity is of great importance in keeping with the belief that Markandeya had performed this form of worship. Kaalasamhaaramurthy, the fierce form of Siva, believed to have saved Markandeya from the clutches of Yama is enshrined in this temple.

Abhirami Amman shrine attracts thousands of visitors throughout the year.

48. Tirukkadavur Mayaanam 

Located in Tirukkadavur near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Bhramapureeswarar and the Ambal Nimalakuchambika.
The Theertham is Bhrama Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have first vanquished Brahma - hence the name Mayaanam - and then revived and initiated him into the act of creating the Universe

It is from a well here in Tirukkadavur Mayaanam, that water for daily ablution is taken to Tirukkadavur Abhirami Amritaghateswarar temple.

49. Tiruvettakudi

This Siva sthalam is located near Tiruvettakkudi near Karaikkal and Mayiladuturai

The presiding deity is Tirumeniyazhagar and the Ambal Shantha Nayaki
The Theertham is Satya Pushkarini
Sambandar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Arjuna is said to have worshipped Siva here, and Siva is said to have materialized in front of him in the guise of a hunter, hence the name Tiruvettakkudi.



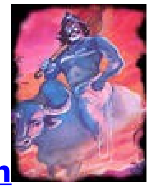
50. Tiruttelicheri

This Siva shetram is located near Karaikkal and Nagappattinam

The presiding deity is Parvateeswarar and the Ambal Ampaduttakkannaal; Sakthi Nayaki
The Theertham is Sakti Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati worshipped Shiva here.
This shetram is associated with the incident of Tirugnanasambandar's singing the pathigam 'Maadar Madappidi' in Yaazhmuzhi Pann.

The Sun's rays illuminate the sanctum at sunset for a period of 10 days from the 13th day of the month of Pisces.

51. Dharumapuram 

This Siva shetram is located in Karaikkal near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Yaazhmurinathar, Dharmapureeswarar and the Ambal Madhuraminnammai, Abhayambika
The sthala vriksham is Vaazhai and the Theertham Dharma Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Yama is said to have worshipped Siva here, repenting for having thrown his noose around Markandeya.
Yuddhishtra of Pandavas is also believed to have worshipped here.

Yaazhmurinathar, bearing a yaazh is the festival deity - Utsavamoorthy here
This town has a shrine to the revered Guru Gnanasambandar founder of the Dharumapura Adhinam.

52. Tirunallar 

This Sivastalam is located in close proximity to Karaikkal and Nagappattinam.
The shrine for Saneeswarar in this temple is of great significance, which attracts thousands of pilgrims when the planet Saturn transits between zodiac sign.

The presiding deity is Darbaranyatyagar, Darbaranyeswarar and the Ambal Bogamaartha Poonmulaiyaal; Pranamba
The Theertham is Bhrama Theertham.
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that King Nala who was under the influence of Sani in his life and going through several ordeals, obtained total relief after worshipping Siva at this shrine.
The full moon night in the Tamil month of Purattasi witnesses several special services to the Emerald Lingam.
The best-known festival here is the one marking the transition of Saturn between Zodiac sign, once in two and a half years

53. Tirukkottaru

Tirukkottaru is a Sivastalam in the vicinity of Ambakarathur between Peralam and Karaikkal.

The presiding deity is Airavateswarar and the Ambal Vandamar, Poonkuzhalammai.
The Theertham is Surya Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam.

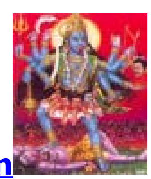
The white elephant of Indra, Airavatam is said to have created Vaanjiyaru river, with its tusk and prayed to Siva at this shetram.

54. Ambar 

This Sivastalam is located near Poonthottam between Peralam and Tiruvarur

The presiding deity is Punnagavaneswarar, Bhramapureesar and the Ambal Poonkuzhalammai; Suganda Kundalambika
The sthala Vriksham is Punnai and the Theertham Brahma Theertham.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma, in the form of a bird, is said to have worshipped Siva to be retrieved to his original form, and hence the name Brahmapuri or Punnakavanam. The tank here is said to have been created by Brahma. Siva is said to have appeared here in the fiery Bhairava form, Sattainathar, for the sake of Indra, hence the name Indrapuri.
Maasi Magam is one of the important festivals celebrated here

55. Ambar Maakaalam 

This Sivastalam is located near Poonthottam between Peralam and Tiruvarur

The presiding deity is Maakaala Nathar, Kaalakandeswarar and the Ambal Bayakshaya Nayaki

The Theertham is Amritavaavi
Sambandar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Kaali vanquished the demons Amban and Ambaran at this shetram. Kaali took the form of an enchantress, accompanied by Vishnu in the guise of an old man and through chicanery caused Amban to kill Ambaran, and then devoured Amban herself. To rid herself of the sin of having killed, she prayed to Shiva here, hence the name Ambar Maakalam.
Siva is said to have appeared as a Chandala in a yagnam conducted by Somaasi Maaranaar.

56. Tirumeeyachur 

This Siva shetram is located at Peralam near Mayiladuturai

The presiding deity is Tirumeninathar, Meganathar and the Andal Soundara Nayaki; Lalitambika
The sthala Vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Surya Pushkarini
Sambandar composed the Pathigm.

Legend has it that Surya offered prayers placing Siva and Parvati on an elephant.

Festivals celebrated include Aadipperukku, Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam, and Rathasaptami in Thai.

57. Tirumeeyachur Illamkovil

This is another Sivastalam in the town of Tirumeeyachur, near Mayiladuturai and is located right next to the Tirumeeyachur Shivastalam enshrining Tirumeninathar.

The presiding deity is Sakala Bhuvaneswarar and the Ambal Minnum Megalaiyaal; Mekalambika.
Appar composed the Pathigam on this shetram

Legend has it that Kali is believed to have worshipped at this shrine

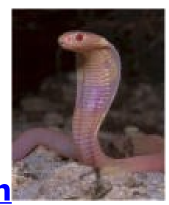
58. Thilataipati 

This Siva sthalam is in Poonthottam near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Mutheesar, Mandaravaneswarar and the Ambal Porkodi Nayaki; Maragathavalli
The Theertham is Chandra Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Rama and Lakshmana are said to have performed the 'Thila Tarpanam' funeral rites to their father King Dasaratha at this place. The Sun and the moon are also said to have worshipped Siva at this shetram.

There is a statue of one of the Kings of Benares who is believed to have made endowments to this temple.

59. Tiruppaampuram 

This Siva shetram is located at Peralam near Mayiladuturai.
The presiding deity is Paampuranathar, Sarpeswarar and the Ambal Vandaar Poonkuzhali.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam on this shetram

Nagarajan the king of serpents, Karkotakan, Brahma and Agasthyar are said to have worshipped Siva here. The name Paampuram comes from the association with Nagarajan. Siva here is also referred to as Seshapureeswarar.

Maasi Magam and Arudra Darisanam are celebrated here

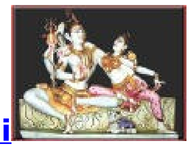
60. Sirukudi

This Siva sthalam is located near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Mangalesar, Kalyanasundaresar and the Ambal Mangala Nayaki
The Theertham is Surya Theertham

Sambandar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Garuda, Raghu and the Gandharvas worshipped Siva in this shrine popularly known as Sookshmapuri. Siva is portrayed here as Santoshaalinganamoorthy

61. Tiruveezhimizhalai 

This Siva shetram is located near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Veezhiazhageeswarar, Netrarpaneswarar and the Ambal Brihadsundarakuchambika
The sthala Vriksham is Veezhi and the Theertham Damodara Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

This Sivastalam is considered to be among the holiest Saivite shrines as it has the third highest number of Pathigams, the first two being Sirkazhi and Tiruvarur

Legend has it that Parvati is said to have been reborn as Katyayani and married Siva here, and the temple is believed to be the Vimanam brought by Mahavishnu,

The annual Brahmotsavam is observed in the Tamil month of Chittirai

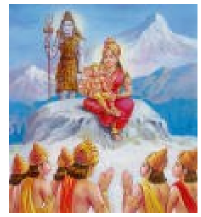
62. Tiruvanniyur

The Siva shetram is located at Annur near Mayiladuturai

The presiding deity is Agneeswarar and the Ambal Parvati
The Theertham is Agni Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Agni worshipped Siva here.

Arudra Darisanam is celebrated in grandeur each year here

63. Karuvili Kottitai. 

This Siva sthalam is located at Konerirajapuram near Mayiladuturai.

The Presiding deity is Sarguna Natheswarar and the Ambal Sarvanga Sundari
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Indra, the Devas, and a king by name Sargunan worshipped here.

64. Penu Perunthurai

This Siva shetram is located at Tiruppanturai near Tiruvaiyaru

The presiding deity is Sivanandar, Pranaveswarar and the Ambal Malaiarasiammai, Mangalambika
The Stala Vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Mangala Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati, Brahma and Subramanyar worshipped Siva here.

Aippasi Pournami, Arudra Darisanam and Navaratri are celebrated here.

65. Narayur Sidheeswaram

This Siva shetram is located at Naraiyur near Kumbhakonam

The presiding deity is Sidha Nathar, Sidheeswarar and the Ambal Azhagambikai.
The Theertham is Bhrama Theertham
Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.
The name narai refers to the sweet fragrance of flowers grown here

The Legend has it that Siva at this shetram is said to have been worshipped by the Sidhas, hence the name Sidheeswaram. Vinayakar here is known as Aananda Pillayar.
It is also believed that Kubera, the Devas and the Gandharvas, Surya, Nara-Narayana and Brahma, also worshipped Siva

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Pankuni.

66. Arisirkaraiputtur

This Sivasthalam is located near Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Padikkasalitha Nathar, Swarnapureeswarar and the Ambal Azhakambikai.

The Theertham is Arisilaru.

Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Siva is said to have blessed Pugazhtunai Nayanar here.

Since this shetram lies on the southern bank of the river Arisil, it got the name Arisirkariputtur.

67. Sivapuram

This Siva sthalam is located close to Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Sivapuranathar and the Ambal Periyanayaki, Singaravalli
The sthala Vriksham is Shanbagamaram and the Theertham Surya Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Vishnu in his Varaaha Avataram worshipped Siva here and the carvings of the Stalapuranam are seen in the temple. Brahma is also said to have worshipped Siva here before he undertook his task of creation

The annual festival is celebrated in the month of Kartikai

68. Kalayanallur(Saakkottai)

This Siva shetram is located close to Kumbhakonam.

The presiding deity is Amudaghatesar, Amritakalaseswarar and the Ambal Amritavalli
The Theertham is Chaturveda Theertham

Sundarar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that in a deluge that submerged the earth, a kalasam, containing samples of the then existing species settled at this spot, signifying the magic of creation; hence the name Amrita Kalasam.

The Saptastana festival is observed in the Tamil month of Chittirai.

69. Tirukkarukudi

This Siva sthalam is located at Marudaantanalloor near Kumbhakonam

The presiding deity is Karukkudinathar, Sargunalingeswarar and the Ambal Sarvalankrita Nayaki
The Theertham is Yama Theertham.
Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Rama, Brahma and a king by name Sargunan are believed to have worshipped the Prithivi lingam here.

Sivaratri in the Tamil month of Maasi and Mondays in the month of Kartikai are considered of importance here.



70. Tiruvanchiyam

Tiruvanchiyam is located near Nannilam and Tiruvarur

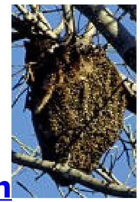
The presiding deity is Vanchilingeswarar, Vanchinathar and the Ambal Mangalanayaki
The sthala Vriksham is Chandana Maram and the Theertham Gupta Ganga
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Mahalakshmi is said to have prayed to Siva at this shetram to get united with Mahavishnu. Yama, Brahma, Parasarar, Atri are also said to have worshipped at this shrine, considered to be on par with Benares. The sandal stalavriksham imparts the name Chandanaranyam to the shrine. Mahalakshmi's 'Vaanchai' for Vishnu, and the fact that her prayers were answered here imparted the name Tiruvanchiyam.

Manikkavacakar sang of the miracle of a Naga kannika (Snake princess) who worshipped Siva and became one with Him as Ammai Appan.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Kartikai.

71. Nannilam



This Siva sthalam is near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Madhuvaneswarar and the Ambal Madhu Vana Nayaki
The Theertham is Bhrama Theertham

Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Surya is said to have worshipped at this temple. This is referred to as Perum Kovil by Sundaramoorthy Nayanar - hence Brihadeeswarar. It is also believed that Devas in the form of bees worshipped Siva here. As a proof of that there are two beehives one in Somaskandar's shrine and the other in the Subramanya shrine.

Thai Poosam, Valli Tirumanam in Kartikai, Aani Tirumanjanam, Aadi Pooram, Aavani Moolam and Skanda Sashti are celebrated here.

72. Tirukondeeswaram



This Sivastalam is located near Nannilam, and Mudikondaan.

The presiding deity is Pasupateeswarar and the Ambal Shantha Nayaki
The sthala Vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Ksheera Pushkarini

Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati assuming the guise of Kamadhenu is believed to have worshipped Siva and hence the presiding deity is called Pasupateeswarar, and the theertham Ksheera Pushkarini.

Thursdays in the Tamil month of Kartikai are considered important days.

73. Tiruppanaiyur

This Siva sthalam is Located near Nannilam and Mayiladuturai,

The presiding deity is Azhagiya nathar, Soundarya Nathar and the Ambal Periya Nayaki.
The Sthala Vriksham is Panai and the Theertham Amrita Pushkarini.
Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Paraasarar is said to have worshipped the presiding deity here. It is also believed that Siva is said to have blessed Sundaramoorthy Nayanar with a vision of the cosmic dance here

There is an image of Paraasara Muni, who is said to have dropped a small portion of the celestial nectar - Amritam - into the Temple tank, and hence gained the name Amrita Pushkarini.

74. Virkudi

This Siva sthalam is located near Tiruvarur and Mayiladuturai

The presiding deity is Veeratteswarar and the Ambal Elavaar Kuzhali
The sthala Vriksham is Tulasi, and the Theertham is Chakra Theertham.
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva killed the demon Jalandharan, at this sthalam. Interestingly the stalavriksham Tulasi is believed to be the reincarnation of Brinda, the wife of the slain demon.

This shrine is also named as Dhanushapuram as Vishnu's bow, which was believed to have been broken by the Devas in the guise of termites landed here.

The festival image of Siva, Jalandhara Samhara Moorthy, here bears the discus and chakram

Appar is said to have spent his last years here, dedicating his life to the upkeep of this temple, and the Appar Peruvizha which lasts for a period of 10 days, celebrates these events

75. Tiruppugalur 

This Siva sthalam is located near Nannilam

The presiding deity is Konappiraan, Agneeswarar and the Ambal Karuntaazhkuzhali, Chootikambal
The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Agni Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Agni is said to have worshipped Siva here, and was blessed with a vision of Chandrasekharar. Siva is said to have blessed Bhumidevi and Satyashada rishi with a vision of the Cosmic Dance. The demon Banasuran is said to have attempted to carry away the Sivalingam from here but failed.

The Appar festival is celebrated in the month of Chittirai, witnesses the singing of the Tamil Tevaram hymns.

76. Tiruppugalur Vardhamaneeswaram

This Siva sthalam is located near Nannilam

The presiding deity is Vardhamaneswarar and the Ambal Karunthazhkuzhali
The Theertham is Agni Theertham.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

This Sivastalam is a part of the Tiruppugalur temple known for its shrine to Chandrasekharar.

77. Ramanadeeswaram

This Siva sthalam is located in Tirukkannapuram near Nannilam and Tiruppugalur.

The presiding deity is Ramanathar and the Ambal Karuvarkuzhaliammai; Chootikambal
The Theertham is Surya Pushkarini
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Rama on his way back to Ayodhya worshipped Siva at this place. It is believed that Nandi stood in the way of Rama's worship and that Parvati controlled him by holding him with her arm, hence the name Ramanandeeswaram.

78. Tiruppayattrankudi

This Siva sthalam is located at Virkudi near Nannilam.

The presiding deity is Payatreeswarar, Muktapureeswarar and the Ambal Kayiyankanniammai.
The Sthala Vriksham is Sivandimaram and the Theertham Devi Theertham
Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Bhairava muni is said to have worshipped Siva at this shrine.
A miracle is said to have transformed a trader's stock of pepper into pulses and back into pepper again here, hence the name Payatrankudi.

The annual Brahmotsavam falls during the Tamil month of Vaikasi.



79. Tiruchenkattankudi

Located at Ganapateeswaram near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Uttarapathiyar, Ganapateeswarar and the Ambal Tirugukuzhal Nayaki.
The sthala Vriksham is Aathi and the Theertham Surya Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Ganapati is said to have prayed to Siva here to seek atonement for the sin of having killed the demon Gajamukhasuran, hence the name Ganapateeswaram. The demon's blood that flowed created the reddened land, called Chenkaadu.

Amudhu Padayal festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai

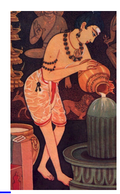
80. Tirumarugal 

This Siva shetram is located near Mayiladutrai.

The presiding deity is Manikkavannar, Ratnagireeswarar and the Ambal Vanduvaarkuzhaliammai, Amotalanayaki.
The sthala Vriksham is Vaazhai and the Theertham Siva Ganga Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Lakshmi got reunited with Vishnu upon worshipping Siva, hence the name Tirumarugal. The name marugal also comes from the stala vruksham - Vaazhai.

Sambandar upon singing the Pathigam 'Sadaiyai Enumaal' (Vidam Theertha Patikam) is said to have brought back to life the husband of a devotee of Siva and this event is commemorated in a celebration each year.
Chitra Pournami is celebrated here on a grand scale.

81.  Tiruchattamangai 

This Siva sthalam is located near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Ayavanteeswarar and the Ambal Malarkannammai, Ubayapushpavilochani
The sthala Vriksham is Konrai and the Theertham Bhramma Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma worshipped Siva here, hence the name Ayavanti.
All of the verses in Sambandar's pathigam here describe Siva's manifestation as Ardhanareeswarar.
Aavani Moolam in the Tamil month of Avani witnesses a lot of festivities here

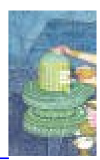
82. Nagaikaronam 

This Siva sthalam is located in Nagapattinam south of Cauveri River.

The presiding deity is Kavarohaneswarar and the Ambal Karuntadankanni, Neelayadakshi.
The sthala Vriksham is Maamaram and the Theertham Pundarika Theertham.
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam
.
The Gometaka Lingam representing Sundara Vitankar was stolen in the recent past.

Legend has it that Pundarika Munivar ascended to divinity with his mortal body, hence called Kaya Aarohanam. The name Nagappattinam is believed to have been derived from the legend that of Adiseshan worshipped Siva here. Adiseshan's daughter is believed to have married Saaleeswaran, a devotee of Siva.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi

83. Sikkal 

This Siva shetram is located in Sikkal near Nagappattinam.

The presiding deity is Venneipperumaan, Navaneeteswarar and the Ambal Velon Kanniyaal, Saktiyudakshi
The sthala Vriksham is Mallikai and the Theertham Ksheera Pushkarini
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vasishta is said to have prayed to Siva to recover his Kamadhenu, whose milk flowed and froze to form butter. Fashioning a Lingam out of Butter (Venneippiran), Vasishtar vainfully tried to move it, but it got stuck at this shetram (Sikkal). Legend also has it that Vishnu sought the blessings of Siva before venturing out to the court of the demon king Mahabali, and there is a Kola Vaamana Perumaal shrine adjacent to the temple.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai. During Skanda Sashti Utsavam Singaravelar receives his Vel (Spear) from Devi,

84. Keevalur 

This Siva sthalam is near Nagappattinam and the temple is built at an elevation on the hillock known as Chitrakootagiri

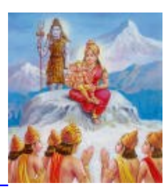
The presiding deity is Kediliyappar, Akshayalingeswarar and the Ambal Vanamulaiamman, Sundarakuchambika
The sthala Vriksham is Ilandai Maram (Badari) and the Theertham Saravanappoikai
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Subramanyar is believed to have created this shrine for Siva with the help of Indra and worshipped at this place. It is also believed that Siva is said to have danced with his right foot raised, for Agasthyar.

Kuberan is said to have come here to help out a poor devotee by name Chandragupta.

This shrine has been glorified by Muthuswamy Deekshitar's kriti Akshaya Linga Vibho in the raga Sankarabharanam.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai

85. Tiruttevur 

This Siva sthalam is located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Deva Gurunathar, Devapureeswarar and the Ambal Pann Nilaviya Mozhiyumai, Madhura Bhashini
The sthala Vriksham is Vazhaimaram and the Theertham Deva Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brihaspati the Guru of the Devas worshipped Siva here; hence the deity is called Devagurunathar. Gowtama Muni,

Indra, Kubera and Surya are also believed to have worshipped Siva here.

The annual festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi

86. Palliyin Mukoodal

This Siva shetram is located in Virkudi near Mayiladuturai

The presiding deity is Mukkonanatheswarar and the Ambal is Maimevumkanni
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Rama offered worship here at Palliyinmukkoodal. There is a Ramaswamy temple behind this Sivastalam.

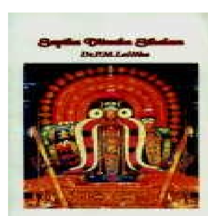
87. Achaleswaram

Also known as Tiruvarur Araneri, this temple to Siva is located in the Southern Prakaram of the grand Tyagaraja Temple at Tiruvarur, near Mayiladuturai.

The presiding deity is Araneri Appar, Achaleswarar and the Ambal Vandaarkuzhali, Achaleswari
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Naminandi Adigal, one of the 63 Nayanmars, kept the temple lamp burning with water, when oil was not available

The niche images here include those of Ardhanareeswarar, Durga, Bhikshantakar, Brahma, Lingodbhavar, Dakshinamurthy, Agastyar and Natarajar.



88. Tiruvarur

This Sivastalam is a huge temple of great historical and religious significance and is considered to be one of the holiest of the 275 Saivite shrines. It has the most number of hymns in the Tirumurai collection

The presiding deity is Veedhi Vitankar, Tyagarajar, Tirumoolattanar and the Ambal Alliyankothai, Kamalambika

The sthala theertham is Kamalalayam
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vishnu worshipped Siva in the form of Somaskanthar, associated with the Ajapa Dance
Indra is believed to have asked Muchukunda Cholan to pick the original image of Somaskandar worshipped by Mahavishnu. The image of Tyagarajar is the foremost of the Seven which. Muchukunda Cholan is believed to have picked and Indra is believed to have rewarded him with all of the seven images, which the latter installed at seven different places within his territory, and these temples constitute the seven Vitankastalams.

The evening worship service (Saayarakshai) here is of great significance

Muthuswamy Deekshithar, Tyagarajar and Syama Sastri the trinity of Carnatic Music were born in Tiruvarur. Deekshithar in particular composed several Kritis addressed to Tyagarajar, Kamalambika and several other deities in this temple.

The annual Brahmotsavam is in the Tamil month of Pankuni. The temple car is considered to be one of the biggest taken out in procession The Tamil saying 'Tiruvarur Terazhagu' speaks of the grandeur of the Aazhitter,

89. Aarurparavaiumandali

This Siva sthalam is located in Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Toovai Nayanar and the Ambal Panjin Melladiammai.
Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Durvasa muni is believed to have worshipped here, and his image is seen near that of Vinayakar. It is also believed that Siva swallowed the mighty deluge sent by Varuna, the rain God. Sundaramoorthy Nayanar is said to have recovered his eyesight after he took bath in this temple's tank.

90. Vilamar

This Siva sthalam is located close to Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Patanjali Manoharar and the Ambal Yaazhinum men mozhiammai; Madhura Bhashini

The Theertham is Agni Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Patanjali and Vyagrapadar, for whom Siva provided a vision of the cosmic dance at Chidambaram, are said to have worshipped here.

91. Karaveeram

This Siva sthalam is located at Karaveeram near Tiruvarur

The presiding deity is Alarivananathar, Bhramapureeswarar and the Ambal Pratyaksha Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Alarichedi and the Theertham Bhrama Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Gowtama Muni is believed to have worshipped here. Brahma is also believed to have worshipped here and hence the name Brahmapureeswarar.
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92. Peruvelur

This Siva sthalam is located at Kattur Aiyanpettai near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Piriyaada Nathar, Avimukteswarar and the Ambal Niraikonda Nayaki, Abinnammbaal
The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Saravana Poikai
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Subramanyar is said to have worshipped here, and Vishnu is said to have prayed to Siva to shed his Mohini form. Gowtama and Bhringi Munis are also believed to have worshipped Siva here

93. Talaiyalankadu 

This Sivastalam is located close to Kodavasal near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Andal Vallavar, Nartanapureeswarar and the Ambal Tirumadandaiammai, Balambika.

The Thertham is Shangu.

Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have danced upon the body of Muyalakan, sent by the sages of Dharukavanam (Nartanapuri). Kapila Muni worshipped Siva here to receive the Chintamani gem. He is said to have walked on his head to reach here -hence Talaiyalankadu.

The annual brahmotsavam festival is observed in the Tamil month of Thai here.

94. Tirukkudavaayil 

This Siva sthalam is located at Kodavasal near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Konanathan, Koneswarar and the Ambal Periyanayaki, Bhrihannayaki
The sthala vriksham is Vaazhaimaram and the Theertham Amrita Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have appeared out of a pot (Kudam) and relieved Drinabandu Munivar of his leprosy.
It is believed that when the great deluge submerged the earth, Vishnu remained afloat in an earthen vessel that stretched from Kodavasal to Kumbhakonam.
It is also believed that a part of the celestial nectar Amritam dropped here; hence a bath in the temple tank here is considered sacred, during the Mahamagam festival at Kumbhakonam.

Arudra Darisanam and Maasi Magam are the festivals of significance here.

95. Tirucherai

This Siva sthalam also called Udaiyar Koyil is located near Kumbakonam and Kodavasal

The presiding deity is Senneriappar, Gnana Parameswarar and the Ambal Gnanavalli
The Theertham is Markandeya Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Markandeyar and River Cauvery are said to have worshipped Siva in this shrine. Dowmya risih is also believed to have worshipped Siva here.

96. Tirunaalurmayaanam

This Siva shetram is located at Tirunaalur near Kumbakonam.

The Presiding deity is Palaasa Vanesar, Gnanaparameswarar and the Ambal Periya Nayaki, Gnanambika
The Theertham is Chandra Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Aapatsamba muni worshipped Siva here.

97. Kaduvaaikaraiputtur 

This Siva shetram is located at Aandaan Kovil near Kumbhakonam.

The presiding deity is Semponnnathar, Swarnapureesar and the Ambal Sivasekhari, Shivambika
The sthala Vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Kudamurutti
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva and Parvati chose this shrine as a resort, in acknowledgement of its richness and fertility. The Ganges appeared here. Parvati worshipped Siva with flowers, gold and with the waters of the Ganges. Hence the name Semponnnathar. Several colorful legends are associated with the glory of this shrine. Kasyapa Muni is believed to have worshipped Siva here. The river Kaduvaai is now known as Kudamurutti.

The sun's rays illuminate the sanctum of this small temple for a three-day period in the Tamil month of Chittirai

The annual festival is in the month of Vaikasi

98. Tiruvirumpoolai. 

This Siva sthalam is located at Aalankudi near Kumbhakonam.

The presiding deity is Aabatsakaayar and the Ambal Elavaar kuzhaliammai;Elaalakaambaal

The Theertham is Amritha pushkarini.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Dakshinamurthy is said to have preached to the Devas who have swooned under the impact of the poison that came out of the churning of the milky ocean. Parvati is said to have been reborn on the banks of Amrita Pushkarini and later on reunited with Siva. Viswamitrar is believed to have worshipped Shiva here.

There are shrines to Surya, Gurumoksheswarar, Somanathar, Saptarishi nathar Someswarar, Vishnunathar and Bhrameesar, Kaasi Viswanathar and Visalakshi.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai.

99. Aradaiperumpaazhi

This Siva sthalam is located at Aridwaramangalam near Kumbhakonam.

The presiding deity is Paataleswarar and the Ambal Alankara Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Brahma Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that a covered pit in front of the shrine is said to have been dug by Vishnu in his Varaaha Avataram and enraged by this Siva broke the horns of Varaha Moorthy and wore it as an ornament. Legends connected with Vishnu's Varaaha Avataram are also associated with the Sivastalam Avalivanallur nearby
Kartikai Deepam, Chitra Pournami and Pankuni Uthiram is the festival celebrated here

100. Avalivanallur 

This Shivastalam is located in the vicinity of Haridwaramangalam, near kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Saakshi Nayakeswarar and the Ambal SoundaraNayaki

The Theertham is Chandra Pushkarini

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Both this temple and the one at Haridwaramangalam are associated with the Varaha Avataram of Vishnu. Legend has it that Vishnu in his Varahavataram after losing his horn worshipped Siva here. Siva is said to have played the role of a witness in settling a marital dispute among his devotees hence the name Avalivalnallur.

Thai Amavasai (New moon day in the month of Capricorn) is celebrated here. In addition Navaratri and Skanda Sashti are celebrated each year.

101. Paridiniyamam

This Siva sthalam is located near Kumbakonam.

The presiding deity is Paridiyappar, Bhaskareswarar and the Ambal MangalaNayaki

The Theertham is Surya Theertham

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Markandeyar is said to have been blessed here on the day of Margazhi Tiruvadirai. There are legends associated with King Sibi discovering this shrine by accident.

Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam, Tai Poosam, Masi Magam, Pankuni Uthiram, Chitra Pournami, Aadi Pooram, Aavani Moolam, Navaratri and Deepavali are celebrated here.

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102.  Tiruvenniyur (Koyil Venni)

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Aalankudi (Gurustalam) and Tiruppoovanur (Pushpavanam) near Needamangalam.

The presiding deity is Vennikkarumbar and the Ambl Azhagiya Nayaki.

The sthala vriksham is Karumbu

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Siva is believed to have blessed Indra.
This well laid out temple enshrines a Sivalingam with marks resembling those of the sugarcane

103. Tiruppoovanur

This Shivastalam is located in the vicinity of Aalankudi and Koyil venni near Needamangalam

The presiding deity is Pushpavaneswarar and the Ambal Pushpavana Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Palaamaram and the Theertham Karunkuzhi Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati who was born as the Raja Rajesvari daughter of a king in Tirunelveli, and Chamundeswari one of the Sapta Maatas is said to have raised Raja Rajeswari. Siva who had come in the guise of a Sidhhar and defeated Parvati in a game of Chaturangam and married her, hence the name Chaturanga Vallabheswarar.

A Tenday festival is celebrated in the month of Chittirai.

104. Paadaaleeswaram

This Sivastalam is located in the Tiruppaambani area of the town of Mannargudi

The presiding deity is Naganathar, Sarpapureeswarar and the Ambal Amrita Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Mango and the Theertham Naaga Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Aadi Seshan is said to have worshipped here, hence the names Paambani for the shrine, and Sarpapureeswarar for Siva. Dhananjaya munivar whose form resembled that of Patanjali is also believed to have worshipped here. The river in the vicinity is also known as Paambani.

The annual Brahmotsavam is held in the Tamil month of Vaikasi

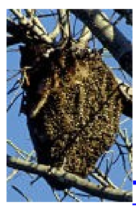
105.  Tirukkalar

This Siva sthalam is located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Kalarmulainathar and the Ambal Azhageswari.
The sthala vriksham is Pavalamalli and the Theertham Durvasa Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Natarajar is said to have blessed Durvasar with a vision of the cosmic dance. The latter's image is seen facing Natarajar here. Parasarar is also believed to have worshipped here.

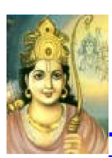
A lofty Rajagopuram (150 feet) adorns the entrance to this temple and the Valampuri Vinayakar and the Subramanyar shrines are also of significance here

106.  Tiruchitremam

This Sivastalam is located close to Alattampadi near Tiruvarur

The presiding deity is Pon Vaitha Nathar, Madhupureeswarar and the Ambal Azhagiya Sornam, Akilanda Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Aathi and the Theertham Swarna Pushkarini
Sambandar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Siva is said to have blessed a destitute woman with a piece of gold each day, hence Pon Vaitta Nathar.
A group of Sidhas are said to have assumed the form of bees and worshipped Siva; there is a beehive to the south of the deity. Worship is offered to the beehive.

107.  Tiru Usaattaanam

The Siva sthalam is at Koviloor near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Usaattaanamudaiya Naayanaar, Mantrapureeswarar and the Ambal Periyanayaki
The sthala vriksham is Maamaram
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Rama along with Lakshmana, Jambavan, Sugreevan and Hanuman worshipped here on his way to Sri Lanka. A white colored Shivalingam occupies the sanctum.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the month of Chittirai. Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam, Aani Tirumanjanam, Aadi Pooram, Aavani Moolam, Navaratri, Skanda Sashti are also celebrated here.

108. Tiruidumbavanam

This Siva sthalam is located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Sargunanatheswarar and the Ambal Mangalanayaki
The Theertham is Bhrama Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Gatotkachan is said to have been born (to Bhima and Hidambi) here and the temple theertham is said to have been created by Bheema with his mace. Kunraloor nearby is believed to he Hidumban's capital. Legend has it that Siva granted a vision of the divine marriage to Agasthyar, and as in Vedaranyam, a panel depicting Siva and Parvati adorns the sanctum wall behind the Sivalingam.
It is believed that Sambandar trekked his way to this temple for a distance of about four miles, on his hands, as he had a vision of Sivalingams covering the entire path.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the month of Vaikasi

109. Kaddikulam

This shrine is located near Tillaivilaakam Karpaganaar Kovil close to Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Karpaga Naathar and the Ambal Soundara Nayaki

The Theertham is Vinayaka Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Karpaga Vinayakar prayed to Siva and obtained the celestial
Mango fruit of knowledge here. The Vinayakar shrine here is of great significance

Thai Poosam and Panguni Uthiram are celebrated annually.

110. Tandalaineeneri

This Shivastalam is in the vicinity of Tirutturaippundi near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Neeneri Naathar, Sthira Budheeswarar and the Ambal Gnanambika
The sthala vriksham is Kurunda Maram and the Theertham Omaka Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has that Siva is said to have quelled Koorma (Avataram of Vishnu), and used its shell as an ornament here. Arivaattaya Nayanar is associated with this shrine

Skanda Sashti is celebrated in the month of Aippasi.

111. Kottur

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Tirukkalar, near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Kozhuntheesar and the Ambal Thenmozhippavai, Madhuravachanambika
The sthala Vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Agasthya Nadhi
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Devas are believed to have worshipped here. An image of Ardhanareeswarar can be seen on the Sivalingam when it is bathed with milk, during festival days such as Maasi Magam

112. Vanduturai

This Sivastalam is located near Mannargudi

The presiding deity is Vanduturai Nathar, Bhramarapureeswarar and the Ambal Venedunkanniyammai
The Theertham is Agasthya Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Bhringi Munivar is said to have assumed the form of a bee and worshipped here, hence the name Vanduturai

113. Tirukkollampudur

This Siva sthalam is located at Selloor (Tirukkalambur) near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Vilvavaneswarar and the Ambal Soundarambika
The Sthala vriksham is Konrai and the Theertham is Brahma Theertham
Sambandar has composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that The Vilva trees are said to represent splashes of the celestial nectar Amritam, and this stalam is considered on par with Banares. Sundarar is believed to have floated across the river to this temple on a raft on the river in spate, singing a Pathigam. This event is celebrated as a festival in the monsoon month of Libra. The Avimukteswarar temple nearby is also associated with this legend as is the Sivastalam at Kodavasal. Siva is said to have blessed Durvasa Muni with a vision of the Cosmic Dance here.

Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam, Sivaratri, Skanda Sashti are some of the festivals celebrated here.

114. Pereyil



This Sivastalam is located south of Kuzhikkarai near Thanjavur.

The presiding deity is Sidhi Nathar, Jagadeeswarar (Viswanathar) and the Ambal Periya Nayaki, Jagannayaki
The sthala vriksham is Naarathai Maram and the Theertham Agni Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Appar glorified this small shrine (Ogaippereyil) in a pathigam of his in Tirukkuruntokai. Siva is said to have blessed Devas at this shetram.

The Natarajar image here is said to be of great beauty. Four worship services are offered here each day. Kartikai Deepam and Tamil New Years day are celebrated here.

115. Tirukkollikkadu

This Sivastalam is located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Theevannanathar, Agneeswararand the Ambal Panjinu melladiammai.
The Theertham is Agni Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Agni is believed to have worshipped Siva.

The shrine for Saneeswarar is of significance here.

116. Tenkoor 

This Siva shetram is at Vellimalai near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Vellimalai Nathar, Rajatagireeswarar and the Ambal Periya nayaki The Theertham is Sivagangai
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Navagrahams and Lakshmi worshipped Shiva here. Shiva's shrine is located in front of Lakshmi's. Asura Guru Sukracharyar is believed to have regained his eyesight after worshipping Siva here.

The Shiva Ganga tank is located to the north of the temple.

117.  **Tirunellikka**

This Sivasthalam is located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Nellivananthewsarar, Amalakavaneswar and the Ambal Mangalanayaki
The sthala vriksham is Nellai and the Theertham Brahma Theertham.
Sundarar composed the Pathikam.

Legend has it that Siva blessed Durvasa Muni and enabled the Muni to shed his short temperedness.
Legend also has it that Vishnu, Chandra, Saneeswaran, Surya and Bhrama worshipped here. Hence the names Arunaapuram and Bhramatheertham. It is also believed that a Gandharva worshipped Siva here and was relieved of his leprosy, and hence the name Kushtarogaharapuram.

The Bhrammotsavam is celebrated in the month of Chittirai.

118.  **Tirunatyattankudi**

This sivasthalam is located at Palakkurichi near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Manikkavannar, Ratnapureeswarar and the Ambal Maamalarmangai; Ratnapureeswari
The sthala vriksham is Maavilangamaram and the Theertham Surya Pushkarini

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

It is believed that Siva settled the assets of Ratnendra Chola and his father here and hence the name Ratneswarar. The name Karinatheswarar stems from the worship offered by an elephant here. *Kai Kattu Vinayakar* is said to have pointed out Siva and Parvati in disguise, to Sundarar. Kotpuli Nayanar is associated with this shrine and his association is commemorated each year in the month of Aadi.

The Nadavu Utsavam in the month of Aadi is of importance here.

119.  Tirukkaaraayil

This Sivastalam (Tirukkaaraivaasal) is regarded as of the SaptaVitanka temples; housing shrines to Tyagaraja and located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Kannayira Natheswarar, Tyagarajar (Aadi Vitankar) and the Ambal Kailaya Nayaki
The Theertham is Indra Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Indra is said to have worshipped Siva on a full moon night in the month of Virgo. It is believed that Kadukkaai Pillaiyaar here, transformed a trader's cargo of nutmeg into Kadukkaai and then back to Kadukkaai,
Tyagarajar here is known as Aadi Vitankar and is associated with the Kukkuta Natanam dance
The annual Brahmotsavam festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

120. Kanraappur

This Sivasthalam is located near Tiruvarur.
The presiding deity is Naduthariappar, Vatsanathar and the Ambal Maathumainayaki.
The sthala vriksham is Kalpanaimaram and the Theertham Gnana Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Siva is said to have accepted worship from a devout woman to a fixture used to tie calves in the cattle shed, since her family members objected to her religious faith and barred her from worshipping a linga. Hence the name Kanraappu. Hidimba is said to have worshipped here.

The annual Bhrammotsavam is held in the month of Vaikasi

121. Tiru Valivalam 

This sivasthalam is located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Manattunai Nathar, Hridaya Kamalanathar and the Ambal Maazhaiyonkanni
The sthala vriksham is Punnai and the Theertham Chakra Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

A black sparrow (Valiyan) is said to have circumambulated the shrine, hence the name Valivalam. Surya is said to have worshipped here and the wheels of his chariot are believed to have created the Chakra Theertham moat.

The annual Brahmotsavam conducted in the month of Chittirai concludes with the float festival in the Chakra Theertham.

122.  **Kaichinam**

This Siva sthalam is located at Tirunellikka near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Karachinneswarar, Hrudaya Kamala Nathar and the Ambal Velvalaiyammai, Matsayadakshi
The sthala vriksham is Konkilavu and the Theertham Indra Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Indra, the king of the Devas is believed to have worshiped here and is said to have been relieved of his afflictions. Finger imprints said to be that of Indra are seen on the Sivalingam made of earth and hence the name Kaichinnam. Drinabindu muni is believed to have worshipped here. Agastyar is also said to have been blessed here Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the month of Vaikasi while Arudra Darisanam, Panguni Uthiram, Skanda Sashti and Navaratri are the other festivals celebrated through the year.

123.  **Tirukkolili**

This Sivasthalam is located at Tirukkuvalai near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Sundareswarar, Thyagarajar and the Ambal Meenakshi.

The Theertham is Brahma Theertham.

Sambandar, appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Brahma is said to have worshipped here prior to commencing the act of creation, hence Brahma Tapovanam, Bhramapureeswarar. Since the sins of the nine celestial bodies (Kol) were forgiven here, the name Tirukkolili came into being. The Navagrahas are enshrined in a straight row here as in Tiruvarur.

An aged devotee from Kundaiyur intent upon travelling to Madurai was blessed with a vision of Meenakshi and Sundareswarar here. Sundarar was blessed with rice grains here and this vast supply of grains was, by the grace of the presiding deity, miraculously transported toTiruvarur. This is commemorated in the Maasi Magam festival.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the month of Vaikasi, while the Sundarar Utsavam is conducted on the day of Maasi Magam.

124. Tiruvaimur

This sivasthlam is located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Vaimurnathar and the Ambal Paalinum Nan mozhiammai, Ksheeropavachani
The sthala vriksham is Palaamaram and the Theertham Surya Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Surya is said to have worshipped Siva and the suns rays strike the sanctum on two days in the Tamil month of Pankuni.

The 18-day Vasantotsavam in the month of Vaikasi is of great significance here.

125.  Tirumaraikkaadu

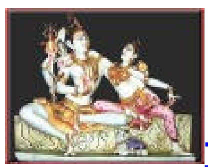
This sivasthalam is located at Vedaranyam near Nagappattinam.

The presiding deity is Maraikkaadanaar, Vedaranyar and the Ambal Panmozhi Ammai
The sthala vriksham is Punnai and the Theertham Manikarnika Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Rama attempted to build a bridge to Sri Lanka from Vedaranyam first and was directed by Siva to proceed to Rameswaram to build a bridge from there on. Rama is said to have worshipped Siva at this shetram on his victorious return to Ayodhya. Brahma is said to have worshipped Siva prior to commencing his work of creation. Viswamitrar worshipped Siva to work his way towards the status of Brahmarishi. Agastyar was blessed with a vision of the divine marriage here. The doors of the temple that had remained shut for ages, reopened when Appar composed his Pathigam and shut themselves upon Sambandar's request with a Pathigam. The Pandavas are believed to have installed the Pancha Lingams here.

Rama worshiped Veerahatti Vinayakar here. Sundarar visited this shrine with Cheraman Perumaal and Sambandar with Appar.

There is an image of Uma Maheswarar behind the Shivalingam in the sanctum.

126.  **Tiru Agathiyaanpalli**

This sivasthalam is located at Vedaranyam near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Agastheeswarar and the Ambal Baagampiriyaal, Soundaranayaki
The sthala vriksham is Agathi and the Theertham Agni Theertham. Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Agastyar witnessed the divine marriage of Siva and Parvati here. Interestingly, the same legend is associated with the Tyagarajar temple at Vedaranyam where a panel depicting the divine marriage is seen behind the Sivalingam in the sanctum. It is believed that Agasthyar built his hermitage here, and trekked up to Vedaranyam each day. Siva here is also known as Agnipureeswarar.

127.  **Kodikkarai**

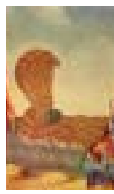
This sivasthalam is located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Amrita Ghateswarar and the Ambal Maiyar Thadankanni
The Theertham is Amritha Theertham

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the celestial nectar from the Milky Ocean, carried by Vayu, fell at this spot and assumed the form of a Sivalingam, hence Amritaghateswarar.

Rama is said to have sighted Sri Lanka from here, and what is believed to be his footprint is preserved nearby.

128.  **Tiruvidaivai**

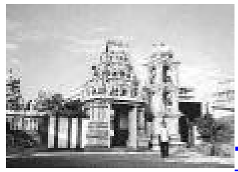
This sivasthalam is located near Tiruvarur.

The presiding deity is Punyakoti Nathar and the Ambal Abhirami
The Theertham is Punyakoti Theertham
Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vidaiyavan, of the Surya vamsam, originally built this temple, and that Shiva was worshipped by Aadiseshan, Agasthyar and Atri.

This Sivastalam is a shrine added later on to the collection of 274 Sivastalams during this century. (Most references point only to 274 Tevara Paadal Petra Stalams). The Tevaram hymns dedicated to this shrine were found in the temple inscriptions and are hence not a part of the original collection of the *Tirumurais* compiled by *Nambiyandar Nambi.* The pathigam here is referred to as *Puthiya Pathigam.*
Appar refers to this shrine as Vidaivaikkudi in his *Adaivutiruttandakam*.

Eezha Naadu - Sri Lanka (2 Temples)

1. Tirukkonamalai

Known as Dakshinakailasam, this Siva sthalam is situated in Tirukonamalai near Talaimannar in Sri Lanka. This is one of the Paadal Petra Stalams. This ancient temple faced destruction during the Portuguese regimen.

The presiding deity is Koneswarar and the Ambal is Maadulaiyaalammai
The Theertham is Kona Theertham

According to the Stala puranam Siva is believed to have been worshipped by Indra at this shetram.

Sambandar has sung the Nayanmaars Pathigam from Rameswaram across the ocean.

Worship services are offered at a rock, on the coast. Singai Jagaraajasekharar a monarch of Sri Lanka has composed the Dakshina Kailasa Puraanam in praise of Tirukkonamalai. Sivarathri is celebrated on a grand scale.

2. Tirukketheeswaram

.
This Siva sthalam is situated in Tirukketheswaram near Talaimannar in Sri Lanka.

The presiding deity is Ketheeswarar and the Ambal is Gowri.
The Theertham is Gowri Theertham

Kethu, and Brighu Muni are believed to have worshipped Siva at this shrine. This shrine later fell into destruction during the Portuguese rule.

Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam on this shetram. Although this shrine has not been visited by the Nayanmars, Sambandar and Sundarar sang its praises from Rameswaram on the other side of the ocean.

Sivaratri and Skanda shasti are celebrated on a grand scale.

Pandya Naadu (14 Temples)





1. Aalavaai (Madurai)

The Madurai Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple is one of the greatest Siva temples.

The presiding deity is Chokkanathar, Sundareswarar and the Ambal Ankayarkanni, Meenakshi
The sthala vriksham is Kadambamaram and the Theertham Potramaraikulam
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have been worshipped by Indra in the Kadambavana forest and hence Sundareswarar's vimanam at this shetram is known as Indra Vimanam. Legend has it that Meenakshi (Parvati) re-born as the daughter of Malayadwaja Pandyan married Siva (born as Soundara Pandyan) here. Together Siva (Soundara Pandyan) and Meenakshi are said to have ruled over Madurai. There are several legends surrounding this temple.

Legend has it, that the divine nectar falling from Lord Siva's locks, gave the city its name 'Madhurapuri', now known as "Madurai".

This temple is a treasure house of architectural beauty built by the Nayak Rulers, and has several towers and Mandapams. The four tall gopurams stand on the massive outer walls of the temple, one on each side. Out of them the Southern Gopuram is the tallest. Besides these, there are four smaller gopurams. The temple tank Potramaraikulam is located inside the temple and is closely associated with the legendary Tamil literary institution known as the Sangam. There are two specimens of ingenious 'musical pillars' in the Ayirankkal Mandapam. Each musical pillar has a central column

surrounded by groups of slender columns chiseled from the same stone. Each of these thin pillars when struck produces different musical notes.

During the Chittirai Tiruvizha (Apr 15-May 15) the entire city takes on a festive look when Meenakshi and Sundareswarar are taken in colorful processions and the divine marriage and the coronation are enacted. The float festival here is also of great importance.

2. Aappudaiyaar Kovil

This temple is located close to Meenakshi Sundareswarar temple at Madurai.
The presiding deity is Aappudaiyar, Rishabeswarar and the Ambal Kuravankamazhum Kuzhalammai, Sugandha Kudalambal.

The Theertham is Rishaba Theertham.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam on this shetram.

Legend has it that 'Aappu' - a wedge that was mistakenly worshipped as a Sivalingam by a Pandya ruler is said to have transformed miraculously into a Sivalingam and thus it gained the name 'Aappudaiyaar'. Siva is also believed to have turned the grains of sand in the river into rice during the time of a debilitating famine, and hence the deity is also called Anna Lingeswarar.

Brahmotsavam is celebrated during the Tamil month of Maasi. Images of Meenakshi and Sundareswarar are brought to this temple during Panguni Uththiram.



3. Tirupparankunram

This Siva sthalam is located near Madurai.The most important of the six Padai Veedu temples of Murugan, where he dwelled before vanquishing the demon Soorapadman is Tirupparankunram

The presiding deity is Parangirinathar and the Ambal Aavudai Nayaki.

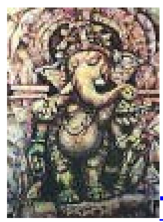
The Theertham is Saravana Poikai.

Sundarar and Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Subramanyar is said to have married Devasena (Devanai) here, and is said to have worshipped Siva - Parangirinatheswarar.

The main shrine is an early rock cut temple while the other structures date to the Nayak period. An Aasthaana Mandapam with several artistically carved pillars lead one to the towering 150 feet high Rajagopuram at the entrance. The Kambathadi Mandapam, Ardha Mandapam and Mahamandapam are situated at different levels. Cells in the main wall house the sanctums of Subramanya, Durga, Vinayakar, Shiva and Vishnu.

The annual Brahmotsavam falls in the Tamil month of Panguni.
Skanda Sashti, the ten-day Kartikai festival, Vaikasi Visakam, and the float festival in Thai are other celebrations here.

4.  **Tiruvedakam:**

This Sivastalam lies on the banks of the river Vaigai, close to Madurai.

The presiding deity is Edakanatheswarar and the Ambal Elavaarkuzhali, Sugandha Kundalambika
The sthala vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Bhrama Theertham

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Garuda, Adiseshan and Vishnu are believed to have worshipped Siva at this shetram. Sambandar's pathigam on a palm leaf (Edu) is said to have gone against the current of Vaigai and settled here and responding to the prayers of Sambandar, 'Vaaduvenra Vinaayakar" at this shetram is said to have stopped the movement of the palm leaf in the guise of a fish.

Sambandar's miracle is celebrated as 'Edu Ethireriya Utsavam' in the Tamil month of Vaikasi. Other festivals include Vinayaka Chaturthi, Aadi Pooram, Navaratri, Aippasi Pournami, Skanda Sashti, Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam, Tai Poosam, Maasi Magam, Panguni Uththiram and Vaikasi Visakam.

5. Tirukkodunkunram 

This Sivastalam is located at Piranmalai near Tirupputtur.

The presiding deity is Kodunkunranathar, Ugragireeswarar and the Ambal Kuyilamritanayaki.
The sthala vriksham is Urangaappuli and the Theertham Madhu Pushkarini
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is believed to have revealed a vision of his marriage with Parvati to Agasthya Muni. Brahma, Saraswathi, Subramanya and Nandi are believed to have worshipped Siva here. Piraanmalai is said to be a block of Mount Meru, which got blown off during a fierce tussle between the serpent king Aadiseshan and the wind God Vaayu. Since this hill is in the form of a Sivalingam, it is also called Prachandragiri and Katoragiri.
There are three shrines in this temple representing the states of Bhumi, Antariksham and Swargam.

The Ugra Bhairavar Shrine here witnesses a special festival in the Tamil month of Thai, and the Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the month of Chittirai.

6.  **Tirupputhur**

This Siva sthalam is located near Karaikkudi.

The presiding deity is Tiruttalinathar, Sreetalinathar and the Ambal Sivakami, Soundarya Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Konrai and the Theertham Garuda Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have revealed a vision of the Cosmic Dance to Lakshmi (Gowri Tandavam) at this shetram. The concept of Pranavam - that Siva and Pranavam were one and the same is said to

have been realized here and manifested itself as the Konrai Maram. Agasthyar, Valmiki, Jayanthan the son of Devendran are said to have worshipped here.

The Kunnakkudi-Tiruvannamalai Aadheenam manages this temple.

Vinayaka Chaturthi, Navaratri, Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam and Vaikasi Visaakam are celebrated here in addition to the Jayantan Festival celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai.

7. Tiruppunavayil

This Shivastalam is located on the seashore near Pudukkotai.

The presiding deity is Pazhampati Nathar and the Ambal Karunai Nayaki.
The Theertham is Brahma Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma, Lakshmi and the four Vedas worshipped Siva here.

All the 14 shrines in the Pandya Kingdom are said to manifest themselves at this shetram.

The annual Brahmotsavam is conducted in the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

8. Rameswaram





This island-temple town is located off of the Sethu coast of Tamilnadu

This Sivastalam is considered to be one of the holiest shrines in India. It represents one of the twelve Jyotirlingams, and is an important pilgrimage center.

The presiding deity is Ramanathaswamy and the Ambal Malaivalarkaadali, Parvathavarthini.

The Theertham is Dhanuskoti.

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

This temple is associated closely with Ramayana and Rama's victorious return from Sri Lanka.

Legend has it that Rama while returning to Ayodhya, desiring to worship Siva at this shetram, asked Hanuman **to bring an image of Viswanathar from Benares. Anticipating delay in Hanuman's return, Rama at the pre-chosen auspicious moment is said to have offered worship to a Sivalingam fashioned out of earth by Sita. This lingam is referred to as Ramalingam and the town gained its name as Rameswaram.**

The Siva lingam of Kasi Viswanathar, said to have been brought later by Hanuman from Banares, is also installed in this temple and is referred to as Kasilingam and Hanumalingam. Traditionally prayers are offered first to Kasilingam before they are offered to Ramalingam.

Legend also has it that Rama worshipped Tilakeswarar at Devipatnam **nearby, enroute to Sri Lanka.**

There is also a shrine to Sethu Madhava, also called Sweta Madhava and Lakshmi in Rameswaram. The term Sweta refer to the white stone with which the image is made.

The Gandamadana parvatam is a hill on the island, which bears a small shrine containing imprints of Rama's feet and is held in worship. It is believed that after his victorious return Rama from the hilltop destroyed the bridge, which he had built between the island and Srilanka,

This temple, spread over an area of 15 acres, has lofty gopurams, massive walls and a colossal Nandi. The stuccoes image of Nandi is about 18 feet tall and 22 feet in length. Rameswaram also boasts of a 4000 feet long pillared corridor with over 4000 pillars, and this is supposed to be the longest in the world. The carved granite pillars are mounted on a raised platform. What is unique about this corridor is that the rock is not indigenous to the island and it was brought in from the main land across the sea. The existing temple was built by Parakrama Bahu of Sri Lanka, and was completed by the Setupathy rulers of Ramanathapuram.

There are 36 Theerthams in Rameswaram of which 22 are in the temple and these waters are said to possess medicinal properties, as well religious sanctity. The Agni theertham refers to the ocean while the Koti theertham is located within the temple itself.

Two annual Brahmotsavams are celebrated in the Tamil months of Aadi and Maasi.

9. Tiruvaadaanai

This Shivastalam is a vast temple at Tiruvaadanai near Devakkottai.

The presiding deity is Aadaanainathar, Aadi Ratneswarar and the Ambal Anbayiammai, Snehavalli
The sthala vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Surya Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vaaruni, the son of Varuna who was cursed by a Sage to have an elephant's body and a goat's head, regained his normal form after worshipping Siva at this shetram. Surya is said to have worshipped a blue diamond image of Siva here.

The annual Brahmotsavam is held in the Tamil month of Vaikasi while the annual festival for Ambal is held in the month of Aadi

10. Tirukkaanapper

This Siva sthalam is located at Kaalayar Kovil near Sivaganga.

The presiding deity is Kaalaiyeesar, Sundareswarar and the Ambal Meenakshi
Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigkam.

Legend has it that Parvati was cursed to attain the form of the dark Kaali when she killed the demon Chandasuran. By offering prayers to Siva at this shetram, Parvati got relieved from the curse. Shiva is then said to have married her here, and taken on the name Kaaleesar.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

11. Tiruppoovanam 

This shrine is located closer to Madurai.

The presiding deity is Poovana Nathar, Bhaskarapureeswarar and the AmbalPoovana Nayaki, Sundara Nayaki.

The sthala Vriksham is Palaamaram and the Theertham Vaigai

Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Surya and Goddess Lakshmi worshipped Somaskandar here. Sambandar upon viewing each grain of sand as a Sivalingam refused to set foot in the temple for the fear of trampling on them. , To give Darsan to Sambandar standing outside the shrine, Siva is said to have directed Nandi to move aside.

The annual Brahmotsavam falls during the Tamil month of Panguni. Other festivals here include Aadi Pooram, Navaratri, Arudra Darisanam, and Kartikai Deepam.

12.  Tiruchuzhial

This is one of the revered Sivastalams near Manamadurai.

The presiding deity is Tirumeni Nathar, Bhoominathar and the Ambal Tunaimaalainayaki.

The sthala vriksham is Punni and the Theertham Kauvaikkadal.

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati is said to have meditated upon Siva, seeking his hand in marriage and this event is commemorated in the Amman Tapas Utsavam in the Tamil month of Aadi.

The annual Brahmotsavam is in the Tamil month of Panguni.

13. Kutralam

This Siva sthalam is located near Tirunelveli. Kutralam is a popular tourist resort known for its waterfalls, amidst picturesque surroundings.

The presiding deity is Kurumpalaveesar, Kutrala Nathar and the Amman Kuzhalvaaimozhiammai.
The sthala vriksham is Kurum Palaa and the Theertham Chitranadhi Saambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that at the request of Siva, Agastyar proceeded southwards to stabilize the balance of earth, and relieve it from the instability resulting from the presence of a multitude of entities at Siva and Parvati's wedding in the Himalayas. To have a glimpse of the divine couple, Agastyar is said to have created a Sivalingam at this shetram by shrinking an image of Vishnu, hence the name Kutralam.

The Chitra Sabhai or the hall of pictures, which resembles that of the other Nataraja Sabhas, is located away from the main temple, and its interior is decked with hundreds of murals, depicting images from the Indian epics.
Arudra Darisanam is celebrated in the Chitrasabha, and the Taandava Deepa Aradhanai carried out at that time is of significance here. In the annual festival Siva appears as Brahma, Vishnu, Rudra, Eswara, Sadasiva and Subramanya.

14. Tirunelveli

This Sivastalam located in Tirunelveli Town, is a vast temple with sprawling mandapams decked with life-sized images. It is one of the most beautiful temples in India and is hailed as one of the five Pancha Sabha*s* of Nataraja housing Tamra

The presiding deity is Nellaiyappar, Venuvaneswarar and the Ambal Kantimati
The sthala vriksham is Moongil and the Theertham Tambraparni.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva protected the food grains collected for worship at the temple from floods of the river Tamaraparani, by a fence and hence the name "Nel Veli". Agasthyar and Vishnu are said to have worshipped here.

This temple combines two complex structures of the temples for Nellaiappar and Kantimati linked by the Sangili Mandapam, which has several lifesized sculptures adorning the pillars. The Oonjal Mandapam and the 1000-pillared hall are of great beauty.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Aani.

Malai Naadu - Kerala (1 Temple)

1.  **Thiruvanchikkalam**

Tiru Anjaikkalam is located in the vicinity of Kodungallur, near Thrissur. Kodungallur is well known for its famed temple to Bhagawati. This is the only Sivastalam in Kerala, which has been sung by the Nayanmars.

The presiding deity is Vanchikuleswarar, Anjaikkalathappar and the Ambal Uma Devi, Umaiammai.
Sundarar composed the Nayanmars Pathigam

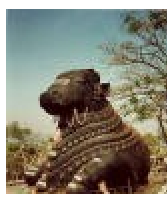
Legend has it that Siva has given the vision with Parvati and blessed Sundarar at this shetram.

Cheraman Perumal, one of the 63 Nayanmars and a great friend of Sundaramoorthy Nayanar is said to have ruled with Kodungallur as his capital. Sundarar and Cheraman Perumal Nayanar are said to have left for Kailasam from here.

The festival during the Tamil month of Adi (Adi Swathi) commemorates Sundarar's association with the temple.

The sanctum is in the form of a chariot. In keeping with the Kerala architectural style, this temple has a conical copper plated Vimanam, a namaskara mandapam, and gopura dwarams on the east and the western direction. Cheraman Perumal's image is carved on the temple walls and there is a memorial to him nearby. The Dakshinamurthy idol in this temple faces the East.

Kongu Naadu (6 Temples)

1.  **Avinashi**

This shetram is located at Avinashi near Coimbatore. The word Avinashi means that which is indestructible. This is one of the 7 Shivastalams in Kongu Nadu. This temple is also known as Karunaiyaathaal temple. Avinashi is referred to as Dakshina Varanasi, Tiruppukkozhiyur etc. Tirumular's Tirumantiram,

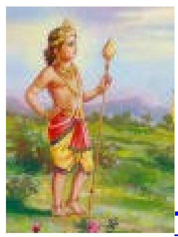
The presiding deity is Avinashi Eswarar, Kediliyappar and the Ambal Karunambika
The sthala Vrisham is Paatiri and the Theertham is Iravata Theertham, Kasi Gangai Theertham
The Nayanmars Pathigam is composed by Sundarar

Sundaramoorthy Nayanar on his way to Tiruvanchikulam is said to have miraculously rescued a boy from the clutches of a crocodile, at Tamaraikkulam close by. This event is commemorated during the 'Mudalai Vaai Pillai' Utsavam during Panguni Uththiram. There is a shrine to Sundarar on the shore of the Tamaraikkulam.

The Kasi Gangai Theertham - in the form of a well in the temple is considered to be of significance. There is a shrine for Kaalabhairavar and is being worshipped here with the offerings of Vadai Maalai.

This temple has two prakarams and the Navaranga Mandapam in the inner prakaram has intricate sculptural work. The large Nandi here, and the carved image of a scorpion in the Ambal sanctum are of significance. This temple is a protected monument under the Archeological survey of India.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai. The Car festival attracts large crowd.

2.  **Tirumuruganpoondi**

This Siva sthalam is located close to Tiruppur and is one of the seven Sivastalams in Kongu Nadu.

The presiding deity is Muruga Natheswarar, Skanda Natheswarar and the Ambal Muyangu Poon Mulaiyammai, Lingabhooshana Stananbika
The stala vriksham is Mullai and the Theertham is Subramanya Koopam.
The Pathigam is composed by Sundarar

Lord Subramanyar is said to have worshipped Siva here after his heroic Surasamharam. Durvasar is said to have brought the Mullai tree – the stala vriksham from Karpaka Lokam. It is believed that worshipping the deity at this shetram relieves those with mental ailments.

Sundarar and Cheraman Perumal upon arriving here lost their wealth to a group of bandits. Upon singing his pathigam Sundarar recovered the lost wealth. There are two images of Sundarar here depicting his state of mind prior to and after the incident.

The Maadeswarar - Mangalambika temple nearby is considered to be the original Tirumuruganpoondy temple. A large Nandi - visible from a distance substitutes the traditional gopuram in a mandapam situated in front of the shrine. Natarajar's tandavam here is attributed as Brahma Tandavam.

The annual Brahmotsavam falls in the Tamil month of Maasi Brahma Tandavam is the feature of the 10th day of the festival. Other

festivals observed here are Arudra Darisanam, Kartikai Deepam, Vinayaka Chaturthi and Skanda Sashti.

3.  **Tiru Nana**

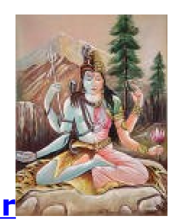
This Sivastalam at Bhavani near Erode, in Kongu Naadu, is a shrine at the confluence of Bhavani, Cauveri and Amrutavahini rivers - Mukkoodal.

The presiding deity is Sangameswarar and the Ambal Pannaar Mozhiyaal, Vedanayaki
The stala vrisham is Ilandai and the Theertham is Bhavani-Kaveri Sangamam
The Nayanmars pathigam is composed by Sambandar

Kuberan, Rama, Arjuna, Viswamitrar and Parasarar are said to have worshipped here. Legend goes that the remnants of the celestial nectar which came out of the milky ocean was buried here by Parasarar; and the same turned into a Sivalingam.

A shrine to Subramanyar is situated between the shrines of Siva and Ambal. There is a beautiful ivory palanquin gifted by a European collector in the 19th century, which is being used during the temple festivals.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Aadi.
It is believed that no evil will befall those who visit this shetram - "Teemai nannaa oor"- hence Tirunanaa.
The five hill shrines of this area such as Sankagiri, Tiruchengode, Padmagiri, Mangalagiri and Vedagiri surround this shrine.

4. Kodimaadachenkunroor 

This Siva shetram is in Tiruchengode in the vicinity of Erode and Salem in Kongunaadu. This is an ancient temple mentioned in the Tamil work Silappadikaram as "Neduvelkunru". There is a motorable road to the hill temple and the red colour of the hill caused the name Chengode.
Ardhanareeswarar - one of the 64 manifestations of Shiva, representing the unity of Siva and Parvati, is enshrined in this revered hill temple of great significance.

The presiding deity is Ardhanareeswarar and the Ambal Baagampiriyaalammai.
The Theertham is Sangu Theertham.
Sambandar composed the Nayanmars Pathigam

The legend is that Adi Kesava Perumal, enshrined here, instructed Gowri on the Kedara Gowri Vratam which she performed to unite with Shiva as Ardhanareeswarar, "the man-woman form" with Parvati constituting the left half of Shiva.

It is also believed that a battle of strength between Adi Seshan and Vayu, saw the former clinging tightly to Mount Meru and Vayu using his might to blow it away. The latter succeeded in blowing it away to Tiruchengode and the blood spilled by Adiseshan colored it red.

There is a 60 ft long snake carved on the hill, and hence the hill is also named as Nagagiri.

Although the sanctum faces the West, entrance to it is from the South. A majestic image of Ardanareeswarar adorns the sanctum. There is a water spring at the foot of the image, which is said to have been divinely manifested "Uli Padaa Uruvam". The Tiruchengottuvelavar shrine dedicated to Lord Subramanyar attracts a large number of pilgrims.

Sambandar composed the Tiruneelakandapathigam here, to help rid fellow travellers of an affliction. Muthuswamy Deekshitar has sung of this shrine in Ardhanareeswaram in Kumudakriya.

"Artha Jaama Pooja" the late night worship service is considered to be of importance in this shetram. New moon days are also considered to be special events. The annual festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

5. Venchamaakoodal

Located at Venjamangudalur near Karur, this temple is classified as one of the Kongu Naattu Stalams.

The presiding deity is Vikriteswarar and the Ambal Vikritambika

The Theerthama is Vikrita Theertham.

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Shiva is said to have appeared in the guise of an old priest and blessed Sundarar with gold. It is also believed that a Tribal king by name Venchan is said to have worshipped Shiva at this shetram and hence the name Venchamaakoodal.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Maasi.

6.  **Paandikkodumudi**

This Sivastalam is located near Kodumudi in Kongunadu and is believed to be one of the "sikarams" – peaks – of Kailash. Several literary works praise the glory of this temple.

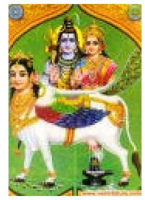
The presiding deity is Kodumudi Nathar, Makuteswarar and the Ambal Panmozhi Nayaki, Soundarambika

The stala Vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Kaveri

Sambandar, Appar, Sundarar have composed the Pathigams. Sundarar composed his Namachivaayappathigam at this shetram.

Legend has it that Brahma and Vishnu who are enshrined here, are said to have worshipped Siva, hence the shetram is also called "Trimurthy Kovil". Agasthyar is said to have worshipped here.

It is also believed that during a test of strength between Adisesha and Vayu, five gems are said to have got scattered from the head of Adisesha. A diamond landed at this shetram and a red stone landed at Tiruvannamalai**, an emerald at** Eengoimalai**, a blue diamond at Potikai, a manikkam at** Vaatpoki**.**

7. **Karuvoor Aanilai** 

This Siva shetram is located in Karur.

The presiding deity is Pasupateeswarar and the Ambal Sundaravalli.

The Sthala Theertham is Brahma Theertham.

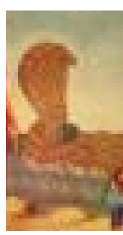
Sundarar and Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Kamadhenu the mythological cow is said to have meditated upon Siva to receive his blessings; hence the name Aanilai, and Pasupateeswarar.

There are two images of Ambal here, Sundaravalli and Alankaravalli. The sun's rays illuminate the sanctum for three days in the Tamil month of Pankuni.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in Panguni; other festivals include the Eripaththa Nayanar utsavam, Navaratri and Arudra Darisanam.

Nadu Naadu (22 Temples)

1. **Tirunelvaayil Arratturai**

This Sivasthalam is located at Tiruvattatturai between Tiruchirappalli and Villuppuram. It is one of the seven 'Turais' associated with Shiva.

The presiding deity is Aratturai Naathar, Theerthapureeswarar and the Ambal Tripurasundari
The sthala Vriksham is Aalamaram and the Theertham Neelamalar Poikai
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar have composed the Pathigam.

The legend has it that Adi Sesha is said to have worshipped Shiva at this shetram, and hence the name Aravatturai, which became Aratturai. There are 7 Shiva lingams in this temple, which are believed to have been worshipped by the Saptarishis.

Sambandar is said to have been blessed with a palanquin lined with pearls, to relieve him of his physical strain as he trekked to Aratturai

2. **Pennaagadam**

The temple is situated near Vriddhachalam and is referred to as Tunngaanai Maadam.

The presiding deity is Sudarkozhuntheesar, Pralayakaleswarar and the Ambal Gadantai Nayaki, Aamodanambikai
The sthala Vriksham is Shanbaga Maram and the Theertham Kapila Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam

Legend has it that Shiva is said to have been worshipped by Kamadenu, the celestial nymphs and the Airavatam. It is also believed that the presiding deity here is said to have consumed the deadly poison that emanated out of the milky ocean, hence is worshipped as Pralayakaleswarar-Sundareswarar.

Appar is said to have been blessed with the marking of the Rishabham and Trisoolam on him, at this shetram. The Nandi in this temple faces away from the shrine and is believed to have swallowed the waters of the great deluge.

Meikkandar the pioneer of Saiva philosophy was born here.
.
A five-tiered gopuram adorns this temple covering an area of around 4 acres. The sanctum is built in the form of an elephant, with windows on three sides.
The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai. Other festivals celebrated include Kartikai Deepam, Skanda Sashti, Arudra Darisanam, Thai Poosam, Sankaranti, Pankuni Uthiram and Aadi Pooram

3. Goodalaiyatrur

This Sivastalam is in the vicinity of Sree Mushnam and Chidambaram.

The presiding deity is Nerikkattunayakar, Narthana Vallabheswarar andtheAmbal Purikuzhalambika, Para sakthi.

The Theertham is Brahma Theertham.

Sundarar has composed the Pathigam.

As per the legend Siva is said to have intercepted Sundarar's path and asked him to visit this shetram.

The annual brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Masi.

4. Erukkattampuliyur

This Sivastalam is located at Rajendrapattinam near Vriddachalam and Sreemushnam.
It is one of the five Puliyur shrines worshipped by Vyagrapadar, the other four being Perumpuliyur, Omampuliyur, Paatirippuliyur and Perumpatrappuliyur (Chidambaram)

The presiding deity is Tirukkumaresar, Swetargavaneswarar and the Ambal Neelamalarkkanniammai, Abinnakucha Nayaki
The sthala Vriksham is Vellerukku and the Theertham Skanda Pushkarini
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

It is believed that the Naimisaranya Munis lived here in the form of trees and when the locals began cutting the trees for firewood, Siva is said to have converted them all to Vellerukku trees, unsuitable for firewood.

This shrine is believed to have been built by a childless Pandya King, who was later blessed with a child - Rajendran, hence the name Rajendrapattinam.

Kartikai Deepam, Thai Poosam, Aavani Moolam, Aani Tirumanjanam, Navaratri and Aippasi Pournami are the major festivals celebrated in this temple.

5.  Tiruttinai Nagar

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Cuddalore.

The presiding deity is Sivakkozhuntheeswarar and the Ambal Oppilaa Nayaki; Neelambika

The sthala Vriksham is Konrai and the Theertham Jambava Thadakam
Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Jambavan is said to have worshipped Siva at this shetram. Local legend holds that Siva tilled the land and grown 'Thinai' and blessed a devotee and his family.

This temple celebrates the Brahmotsavam during the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

6.  Tiruchopuram

This Siva shetram is located at Thiagavalli near Aalapakkam and Cuddalore. This temple was buried under sand and was excavated about hundred years ago.

The presiding deity is Chopuranathar, Mangalapureeswarar and the Ambal Chopuranayaki, Satyayadakshi.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva was worshipped by Agasthyar and a princess by name Tyagavalli, hence the shrine goes by the name Tyagavalli.

Pankuni Uthiram, Kartikai Deepam and Masi Makham are some of the important festivals celebrated here.

7.  Tiruvatikai

Tiruvatikai is located at Panruti near Cuddalore. This is one of the eight Veerata Stalams of Siva and is associated with the legend of Tripurasamhaaram. The red earth surrounding the temple is said to illustrate the legend. The other Veeratta Stalams are Tirukkurukkai, Tirukkadavur, Tiruvazhuvur, Tirukkovalur, Tirupppariyalur, Tirukkandiyur and Tiruvirkudi. Tiruvazhuvur is considered to be a Tevara Vaippustalam, as it has no Pathigams dedicated to it.

The presiding deity is Veerateswarar and the Ambal Tirupurasundari The sthala Vriksham is Sarakkonrai and the Theertham Garuda Nadi Sambandar, Appar, Sundarar have composed the Pathigam.
Appar got his name "Tirunavukkarasar" here.

Legend has it that the marriage of Shiva and Uma took place at this shetram and a panel depicting the marriage is seen behind the Sivalingam in the sanctum.

Aadipooram, Vasantotsavam, Appar Vizha are some of the festivals celebrated at this shetram.

8.  **Tirunaavalur**

This Sivastalam is at Tirunaavalur near Villuppuram and is the birthplace of Sundaramoorthy Nayanar. Also located nearby is Tirumundeeswaram or Gramam. Tirunavalur is also known as Tirunamanallur.

The presiding deity is Naavaleesar, Bhakta Janeswarar and the Ambal Manonmani, Sundaranayaki
The Theertham is Katila nadhi and the sthala vrisham is Naaval maram.
Sundarar has composed the Pathigam.

The Legend has it that Parvati, Vishnu, Chandikeswarar, Sukran and Garudan worshiped Siva at this shetram. Images depicting the life of Chandikeswarar are seen carved in the temple. The Sivalingam placed across from Sukran's shrine is referred to as Sukralingam. There is a shrine to Varadaraja Perumal in this temple.

Dakshinamurthy is portrayed in a standing posture here, bearing scriptures in one hand, with the right hand placed on a rishabham portrayed behind.

A shrine for Sundaramoorthy Nayanar is inside this temple. The bronze images of Natarajar, Bhikshatanar and Sundaramoorthy Nayanar are noteworthy.

9.  Tirumudukunram

This Sivastalam is on a hill in the town of Vriddachalam. The hill is believed to be a manifestation of Siva, and is considered to be a "Moksha Stalam" on par with Chidambaram, Kalahasti and Banares.

The presiding deity is Pazhamalainathar, Vridhagireeswarar and the AmbalPeriya Nayaki, Vriddambika.

The sthala vriksham is Vanni

Sundarar, Appar and Sambandar have composed the Pathigam.

The legend is that Agasthyar, Surya, Chandra, Brahma and Vishnu have worshipped Siva here. Siva is also said to have blessed the Devas with a vision of the Cosmic Dance and it is believed that this stalam stayed untouched through the great deluge. It is recorded that Sundarar is believed to have dropped his gold ring in the Manimuttar River here, and retrieved it in the Kamalalayam tank at Tiruvarur.

It is a big temple with vast courtyards surrounded by tall walls and towers on the four sides. The outermost prakaram is referred to as Kailasa Prakaram. A sage by name Vipachit is believed to have built the earliest structure of this temple, and his image is kept under the vanni tree here.

The Natarajar and the Bhogeswari bronze images found in this temple are said to have been presented by Queen Sembiyam Mahadevi of the 10th century A.D. who was known for her penchant for temple building. The Nandi Mandapam was constructed in her memory.

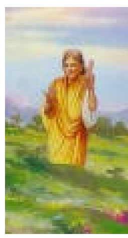
Three annual festivals are celebrated here - one in the Tamil month of Aadi, the Vaikasi Vasantotsavam and the Maasi Brahmotsavam.

10. Tirunelvennei

This Sivastalam is located in the village Neivennai, near Tirukkovilur, close to Ulundurpet railway station. This is one of the eight Veeratta Stalams.

The presiding deity is Venneiyappar, Swarnaghateswarar and the Ambal Neelamalarkkanni.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam
Legend has it that Sanakar and Sanatkumarar worshipped Siva at this shrine known as Nei Vennei.

One of the later inscriptions refers to Siva as Porkudam Koduttu Aruliya Nayanaar.



11. Tirukkovalur Veerattam

Tirukkovalur also known as Tirukkovilur is one of the eight Veeratta Stalams of Siva and is also known as Kizhur or Killiyur located south of Tiruvannamalai.

The presiding deity is Veeratteswarar and the Ambal Sivanandavalli.

The Theertham is Pennai Nadhi

Sambandar and Appar have composed the Pathigam.

The eight Veeratta Stalams are Tiruvatikai, Tirukkurukkai, Tirukkadavur, Tiruvazhuvur, Tirukkovalur, Tirupariyalur, Tirukkandiyur and Tiruvirkudi. Tiruvazhuvur is considered to be a Tevara Vaippustalam, as it has no Patikams dedicated to it.

Tirukkovalur is associated with the legend of Siva vanquishing the demon Dandakasuran. The image of Ganapathi here is said to have been worshipped by Avvaiar the Tamil Saint Poet.
The annual festival is celebrated during the Tamil month of Maasi.

12. Arankandanallur

The Arankandanallur Shivastalam near Tirukkovilur is located on top of a hill adjacent to the Pennar river. Tiruvannamalai temple tower is

visible from this hill. Sambandar's Tevaram refers to this shrine as Araiyaninallur.

The presiding deity is Araiani Naathar and the Ambal Soundarya Kanakambika, Azhagiya Ponnammai.

The Theertham is Bhima Theertham.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

It is believed that Pandavas visited Arankandanallur, and that the temple tank close to the cave in which they stayed, was created with Bhima's mace. Sambandar is said to have miraculously moved a huge rock that had been placed to block the shrine, and there is an imprint of Tirugnanasambandar's feet at this temple.

The 160 feet high Gopuram in this shrine (dating back to the 7th century) with three prakarams is visible from a distance, across the Pennar river.

13. Tiruvidaiyaru

This is a Sivastalam in the small village of Idaiyaru, between Tirukkovilur and Tiruvennainallur.

The presiding deity is Idaiyatreesar and the Ambal Sitridainayaki, Gnanambika.

The Theertham is Penna nadhi

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Siva is in the Tirukkalyanakkolam facing west while the Ambal faces East

The annual festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Thai, while Pankuni Uthiram and Arudra Darisanam are also other festivals of importance.

14. Tiruvennainallur

This is a Sivastalam is located near Villupuram and is known primarily for its association with the attainment of sainthood by Sundaramoorthy Nayanar.

The presiding deity is Taduttaatkonda Nathar, Kripapureeswarar and the Ambal Verkanniyammai, Mangalambikai.

The sthala vriksham is Moongil and the Theertham is Pennai Nadhi.

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

The legend has it that Parvati is said to have worshipped Siva in a fortress of butter. Siva is said to have danced here to enunciate the details of the Natya Sastram. The Vedas in the form of bamboo are said to have worshipped Shiva, hence the name Venuvanam.

Sundarar is said to have been reminded of the purpose of his life by Siva at this shetram, where he sang his first hymn 'Pittaa Pirai Soodi'.

15. Tirutturaiyur

This Siva shetram is located near Cuddalore.

The presiding deity is Tirutturai Naathar, Pasupateeswarar and the Ambal Kayarkan Nayaki, Sivaloka Nayaki.
The Vrisksham is Konrai and the Theertham is Pennar.
Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Naradar, Surya, Bhrama, Vishnu, Rama, Sita, Bheema and Agasthyar worshipped Siva here. There is a shrine to Varadaraja Perumal here.

Navaratri and Aippasi Pournami are the important festivals celebrated at this shetram.

16.  Vatukur

This Sivastalam is near the Chinnababu samudram railway station, at a distance of 17 km from Villuppuram, enroute to Pondicherry. Vatukur is also known as Vandaar Koyil.

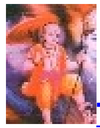
The presiding deity is Vatukurnathar, Panchanatheeswarar, and the Ambal Vaduvarkirkanniammai.

The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the theertham Vatuka Theertham.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

This shrine is known for the Bhairava manifestation of Shiva " SamharaBhairava"

Special services are offered to Bhairavar in the Tamil month of Kartikai (Ashtami). Samhara Bhairavar is one of the eight Bhairava manifestations.

17. Tirumaanikuzhi

Tirumaanikkuzhi is a Shivastalam in the vicinity of Tiruppaatirippuliyur near Cuddalore.

The presiding deity is Udavi Nayakar, Vaamaneswarar and the Ambal Pankayarkanni, Ambujakshi.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vamana is said to have worshipped Siva at this shetram to rid himself of the sin of having manipulated Mahabali, - hence Maanikkuzhi or Vaamanapuri. Siva is also known as Maanikkavaradar here. It is believed that Siva installed Bhima Rudra at the entrance of the sanctum in order to avoid anyone disturbing during Vaamana's worship.

Brahma, Durvasar, Surya, Ashta Vasus, Dakshan and others are said to have worshipped Shiva here. The first Deepaaradanai is offered to Bhimarudra whose image is portrayed in a silk curtain hung in front of the sanctum.

The Brahmotsavam is celebrated during the Tamil month of Kartikai.

18. Tiruppaadirippuliyur

Tiruppatirippuliyur, located at Cuddalore.

The presiding deity is Tonraattunai Nathar, Paataleeswarar and the Ambal Periya Nayaki; Brihannayaki
The sthala Vriksham is Paatiri and the Theertham Ketila Nadhi
Appar composed the famous 'Sotrunai Vediyan' - Namachivayappatikam here.

The legend has it that Vyagrapadar (the saint with tiger's claws and feet) is said to have worshipped here. By the grace of the presiding deity, Appar is said to have been rescued from death of drowning.

The name Paatiri comes from the Paatirivriksham while Puliyur comes from the association with Vyagrapadar.
Arunagirinathar has glorified this shrine with his Tiruppugazh.

During the Tamil of month Chittirai Appar having been saved from drowning is commemorated as a festival.

19. **Tirumundeeswaram**

This is a Sivastalam in the vicinity of Tiruvennainallur also known as Mouli-Gramam between Tirukkovilur and Tiruvannamalai.

The presiding deity is Mundeeswarar, Sivaloka Nathar and the Ambal Kaanaarkuzhali,
Soundara Nayaki.

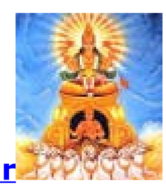
The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Mundaka Theertham

Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma and Indra are said to have worshipped Siva at this shetram. It is also believed that a ruler, wonderstruck by a mysterious red lotus in the tank reached out for it. Unable to grab the flower that dodged his advances he is said to have struck at it with his sword and then realised the presence of a Sivalingam in the tank, over which he constructed the temple.

The neighboring town of Tirunavalur also known as Rajadityapuram is the birthplace of Sundarar.

Appar Vizha is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai and Arudra Darisanam during Margazhi.

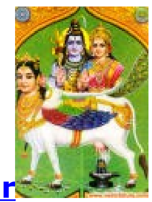
20. Puravaar Panankaattur 

This Shivastalam is located at Paniyapuram close to Villuppuram.
Of the 275 Shivastalams six shrines are associated with Panai maram (Palm Tree). They are Panaiyur, Panankattur, Puravaar Panankattur, Cheyyar, Tirumazhapadi and Tiruppanantaal.

The presiding deity is Panankatteesar and the Ambal Meyyambal, Satyambika
The Sthala Vriksham is Panai Maram and the Theertham Padma Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam of this shetram.

Legend has it that Surya and Sibi are said to have worshipped Shiva at this shetram.

The sun's rays illuminate Shiva's sanctum and then upon Parvati's sanctum for a period of seven days from the 1st of the Tamil New year.

21. Tiru Aamaathur 

This Sivastalam is located near Villuppuram on the banks of the Pampa river.

The presiding deity is Azhagiyanayanar, Abhirameswarar and the Ambal Muthambika
The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Kadamba Nadhi.

Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Kamadhenu worshipped Siva at this shetram. Brigu Munivar is said to have manifested as a Vanni tree at this place. It is also believed that Lord Rama and Sugreeva are said to have taken a vow of eternal friendship here. Siva and Parvati face each other here in the Upadesa formation

Ramalinga Adigalar and Arunagirinathar have also sung of this shrine.

Inscriptions at this temple reveal that a Chola King had provided a grant for the benefit of several blind people to learn the Tevaram hymns and sing them in traditional tunes.

Pankuni Uthiram and Skanda Sashti are the annual festivals celebrated here.

22.  **Tiru Annamalai** 

Tiruvannamalai is located close to Villupuram and is one of the greatest Saivite shrines in India, drawing thousands of pilgrims every full moon day. The hill closeby is considered to be a manifestation of Siva.

The presiding deity is Arunachaleswarar, Annamalaiyar and the Ambal Apitakuchambal, Unnamulaiamman
The sthala vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Agni Theertham Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have manifested himself in the form of a massive column of fire, whose crown and feet Brahma and Vishnu failed to trace.

Tiruvannamalai is one of the Panchabhoota Stalams signifying the element of fire at Tiruvannamalai, wind at Kalahasti, water at Tiruvanaikka, earth at Kanchipuram and space at Chidambaram.

Kartikai Deepam festival here is of great significance, attracting thousands of pilgrims. The celebration of Kartikai Deepam marks the conclusion of the ten-day Brahmotsavam in the Tamil month of Kartikai

The Paatala Linga shrine is connected with the spritual savant Ramana Maharishi. Arunagiri Nathar began composing his Tiruppukazh at this temple.

The Arudra Darisanam in the month of Margazhi is a celebration of the cosmic dance of Siva. The Tai Poosam festival that occurs in the month of Tai is also of great significance. The Tiruvoodal festival, enacting a mock quarrel between Annamalaiyaar and Unnamalai Amman is enacted in the presence of Sundaramoorthy Nayanaar in the Tiruvoodal Street, a street that has been earmarked for this annual event. During this quarrel, Parvati enters the temple alone by herself, leaving Siva outside. Siva (Annamalaiyaar) circumambulates the Annamalai hill (himself), and during his trip grants liberation to the rishi Bhringi, and returns to the temple the following morning.

The temple is rich in architectural beauty and massive Gopurams. The 11-tiered East Rajagopuram tower is 217 feet high, and the 1000-pillared hall has exquisite carvings. Each of the prakarams has a huge Nandi and several towers such as the Vallala Maharaja Gopuram and Kili Gopuram.

Tondai Naadu (31 Temples)

1.  **Kachi Ekambam** 

This is one of the most revered temples to Siva located in Kanchipuram, and also one of the Panchabhoota Stalams signifying the element of earth – Prithvi Lingam.

The presiding deity is Ekambara Nathar, Ekambreswarar and the Ambal Elavar Kuzhali, Kamakshi
The sthala vriksham is Maamaram and the Theertham Kambaa nadi
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

There are several Siva temples in Kanchipuram, and significantly there is no separate shrine for Parvati in any of them. The Kamakshiamman temple is the only Ambal shrine in Kanchipuram

Legend has it that Parvati worshipped Siva in the form of a Prithivi Lingam, improvised out of sand, under a mango tree. The mango tree in the temple is believed to be 3500 years old, and is considered to be the embodiment of the four Vedas. The tree is said to bear fruits of four different tastes in each season.

It is also believed that the neighboring Vegavati river overflowed and threatened to engulf the Siva Lingam. Thereupon Parvati or Kamakshi embraced the Lingam to protect it from being destroyed. By the touch of Parvati, Siva materialized in person and married her. It is in this context Siva is referred to as 'Tazhuva kkuzhainthaar' in Tamil.

The Saint poet Sundaramoorthy Nayanar is said to have recovered sight of his left eye, upon offering worship here. The great texts, Tiruvacakam, Tirukkovaiyaar, Kanchipuranam, Manimekalai speak the glory of Kanchi city

The temple covers an area of over 40 acres, and the Raja Gopuram of the temple built by the Vijayanagar Monarch Krishnadevaraya rises to a hheight of 172 feet.

The annual festival during the Tamil month of Panguni lasts for 13 days and it is during this festival that the wedding of the presiding deity is celebrated, and the Tirumurai of Nayanmars is sung in great splendor.

2. Kachi Metrali

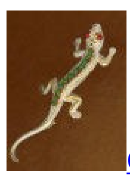
This is a small shrine in Pillayarpalayam in Kanchipuram.

The presiding deity is Tirumetrali nathar and the Ambal Kamakshi
The Theertham is Vishnutheertham
Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vishnu meditated upon Siva here to attain Sivaroopam.

There are two Sivalingams in this shrine - Odha Vrigeeswarar and Mutheeswarar.

Each year Sambandar festival is conducted at this shrine.

3.  Onakanthan Tali

This Shivastalam is a small temple, in Kanchipuram.

The presiding deity is Onakantheswarar and the Ambal Kamakshi
Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have been worshipped here by an Onan and a Kanthan the commander of Vanasuran.

The festivals are celebrated along with Ekambareswarar temple.

4. Kachi Anekatangapadam 

This is a small shrine located in the North Western part of Kanchipuram.

The presiding deity is Anekatangapadeswarar and the Ambal Kamakshi
Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

A legend has it that Kubera and Ganapati worshipped Siva here. The fields in the vicinity are known as 'Aanaiyurittaan Vayal'.

The temple festivals are associated with Ekambareswarar temple.

5. Kachi Nerikkaaraikkaadu

This small shrine is located in Kanchipuram, and is also known as Satyavratam and Indiresam.

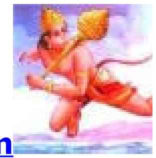
The presiding deity is Kaaraittirunatheswarar, Satyanatheswarar and the Ambal Kaaraarkuzhali, Kamakshi.

The Theertham is Indra Theertham

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Indra, the King of the Devas and Budhan worshipped Siva here. It is believed that the Sivalingam absorbs the sesame oil offered during ablutions.

Arudra Darisanam is celebrated in this temple.

6.  [Kuranganilmuttam] 

This is a Shivastalam located at Mamamdur near Kanchipuram.

The presiding deity is Koyyaa Malareesar, Vaaleeswarar and the AmbalIraiyaarValaiyammai.
The Theertham is Paalaar.

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vaali worshipped Siva at the entrance to the temple while a squirrel worshipped from the South and a crow from the North, hence the name Kuranganilmuttam. Hanuman is also believed to have worshipped Siva here.

Arudra Darsanam is celebrated in this temple.

7.  [Tiru Maakaral]

This Sivastalam is located close to Kanchipuram.

The presiding deity is Maakaraleeswarar, Agasteeswarar and the Ambal Tribhuvaneswari
The Theertham is Agni Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have manifested himself as a giant golden lizard to Rajendra Cholan here. It is also believed that an Udumbu (giant lizard) is said to have worshipped Siva in an anthill. Indra is said to have worshipped Siva here.

The festival coincides with that of the Kancheepuram temple.

8. [Tiruvothur]

This Shivastalam is in cheyyar close to Kanchipuram.

The presiding deity is Vedanatheswarar and the Ambal Ilamulaiyamman,Balakuchambika
The sthala vriksham is Panaimaram and the Theertham Kalyanakotitheertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have revealed the Vedas to the Gods and Rishis from under a banyan tree here. Sambandar is said to have transformed a male palm tree to a female one, responding to the pleas of an anxious devotee.
Siva is said to have appeared as a snake charmer to save Sambandar from the clutches of a snake.

9. Panankattur

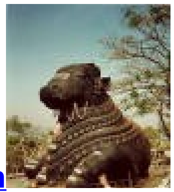
This Sivastalam is located at Panankadu in the vicinity of Kanchipuram. .

The presiding deity is Panankatteesar, Taalapureeswarar and the AmbalKomalaPataambaal
The sthala vriksham is Panai and the Theertham Amudha Theertham.

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the deity at this shrine is said to have been worshipped by Agasthyar and Pulastiar.

The temple celebrates Brahmotsavam during the Tamil month of Masi.

10.  Tiruvallam 

This Sivastalam is located on the Western Bank of Pennar river, near Vellore Town. The waters of the Pennar were once known for their healing powers. Tiruvallam is referred to as a Muktistalam.

The presiding deity is Vallanathar, Vilvavananathar and the Ambal Vallambika;Dhanumadhyambal
The sthala vriksham is Vilva Maram

Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vinayakar is said to have obtained the celestial mango from Siva at this shetram. Referring to Vinayakar's circumambulation of Siva, this sthalam is called Tiruvalam. It is also believed that Nandi is said to be guarding the temple priest from a rakshasan, Kanjan of Kanjamalai nearby.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Maasi. Sivaratri, and Thai Poosam are the festivals of significance here.

11.  **Tirumalper**

This is a Sivastalam located near Kancheepuram and Arakkonam.

The presiding deity is Maal Vanangia Eesar, Manikandeswarar and the Ambal Karunai Nayaki, Anjanakshi
The sthala vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Vishnu Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vishnu is said to have been blessed with his Chakrayudam upon worshipping Siva here - hence the name Tirumalper. It is also believed that during the worship Vishnu is said to have offered to Siva his eye in lieu of the 1000th flower, hence the name Padmakshan.

The Brahmotsavam is in the Tamil month Maasi. Navaratri and Skandasashti are also observed here

12.  **Tiruvooral**

This Sivastalam is located at Takkolam near Kanchipuram and Arakkonam.

The presiding deity is Tiruvooral Mahadevar, Jalanatheswarar and the Ambal Giriraja Kanyaka
Sambandar compsed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Sivalingam is said to have been made by Parvati. It is also believed that Siva appeared here in response to the

prayers of Brahma, Vishnu and Samvarta Munivar, brother of Brihaspati. This shrine is believed to be the Yaga Kundam of Daksha.

The presiding deity, Jalanatheswarar, is considered to be a swayambu lingam of sand. The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Pankuni.

13. **Ilambiankottur**

This Siva sthalam is located near Kadambattur and Arakkonam.

The presiding deity is Deiva Nayakar, Chandrasekharar and the Ambal Kodendu Mulaiyammai.
The Theertham is Chandra Theertham.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Siva appeared in the form of a child and then as an old man pointed out the location of this shrine to Sambandar and his followers. Siva is said to have been worshipped by the celestial nymph Ramba and hence the name Arambayamkottur, which over a period of time became Ilambayankottur.

Worshipping Dakshinamurthy here on full moon night is considered to be auspicious.

Mahasivaratri is celebrated here on a grand scale.

14. Tiruvirkolam

This Siva sthalam is located at Coovam near Tiruvallur.

The presiding deity is Tripurantaka and the Ambal Tripurantaki
The Theertham is Virkola Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the axle in Siva's chariot broke here, while he was proceeding towards the Tripura kingdoms, and Siva enshrined here

in the form of a Swayambu lingam. The Siva lingam is believed to change colors with the seasons. Siva's appearance with his bow (Virkolam) is attributed to this place - Tiruvirkolam

Sivaratri is celebrated on a grand scale.

15.  [Tiruvalankadu]

This Siva sthalam is located near Arakkonam and Kanchipuram. This is a vast and beautiful temple heralded as Ratnasabhai - one of the five Pancha Sabhais attributed to Lord Nataraja.

The presiding deity is Aalankatteesar, Nataraja, Oordhvatandavamoorthy and the Ambal Vandaarkuzhaliammai.
The sthala vriksham is Aalamaram and the Theertham Mukti Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that upon being requested by Naradar to save the earthly beings from the rage of Kali, born out of her vanquishing the demons Sumban and Nisumban in the banyan forest in this region, Siva agreed to a dance duel, and defeated Kali by raising his left foot, on the Oordhvatandavam posture

Kali is depicted in a dance posture at thi shrine. Karaikkal Ammayar is said to have walked on hear head to this shrine and her image is seen in the shrine

The Margazhi Tiruvadirai celebrations witness festivities related to the Cosmic Dance of Shiva.

16. [Tiruppaasur]

This Shivastalam is located near Tiruvallur on the way to Tirupati.

The presiding deity is Paasoor Nathar, Pasupati Nathar and the Ambal Veyidam Konda Nayaki, Pasupati Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Moongil and the Theertham Pasupati Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the Chola King Karikaalan, who built a temple here, discovered the Shivalingam in a bamboo forest. Karikal Valavan is associated with this temple, and while his enemies tried to kill him with a snake, Siva vanquished them.

Sivaratri is celebrated at this shetram.

17. Tiruvenpakkam 

This Sivastalam is located close to Tiruvallur.
The original site of the temple is now submerged under the Poondy reservoir and the deities are housed in a temple on its shores.

The presiding deity is Oonreeswarar and the Ambal Minnaloliammai.
The sthala vriksham is Ilandai
Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati appeared in the form of a lightning every now and then at this shetram, hence the name Minnaloliammai. Sundaramoorthy Nayanar who had lost his eyesight, was blessed by Siva with a pole to assist him to walk.

Arudra Darisanam is celebrated on a grand scale.

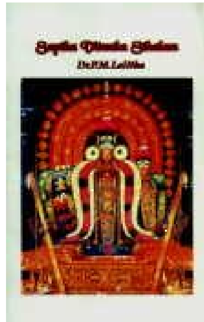
18. Tirukkallil

This Sivastalam is located close to Periyapalayam near Chennai.

The presiding deity is Kalleeswarar, Sivanandeswarar and the Ambal Anandavalli
The Theertham is Sivananda Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Bhrigu Muni is said to have worshipped Siva at this shetram.

Vinayaka Chaturthi, Navaratri and Skanda Sashti are celebrated here

19.  **Tiruvotriyur**

This is one of the famous Sivastalam located close to Chennai.

The presiding deity is Thyagarajar and the Ambal Vadivudaiyammai.

The sthala vriksham is Magizhamaram and the Theertham Bhrama Theertham
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Brahma and Vishnu worshipped Siva at this shrine. The Tripada Trimurthy image combines the essence of Shiva, Vishnu and Brahma. The Moolavar here (Aadipureeswarar) is a Lingam of earth, covered with a kavacham, removed only on the occasion of Kartikai Full Moon.

Tiruvotriyur is a well renowned shrine for Tyagarajar and His dance here is Sundara Natanam. There are Siva lingams associated with each of the 27 stars (Natshatrams)

Pattinathar and Ramalinga Adigal have sung praises of Otriyur.

The grand festivals celebrated here is centered around the dance of Tyagarajar Sundarar is said to have married Sangili Nachiyar under the stala vriksham Magizha maram.

20.  **Tiruvalithaayam**

This is a Siva Stalam in Padi, close to Chennai.

The presiding deity is Valithaya Nathar and the Ambal Thaaiyamman.

The Theertham is Bharadwaja Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Bharadwaja Muni (Valiyaan) and Hanuman worshipped Siva here, and hence the name Valithaayam.

The annual Brahmotsavam festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai.

21.  **Tirumullaivayil**

This is one of the Sivastalams in the vicinity of Chennai, near Avadi.

The presiding deity is Masilamaneeswarar and the Ambal Kodiyidai Nayaki.

The sthala vriksham is Mullaikkodi

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Nandi as per the directions of Siva is said to have accompanied a devout King Tondaimaan on an elephant during a battle. When the feet of the elephant got entangled with a mullai creeper at this shetram, the obstacle was removed and a Sivalingam was revealed over which the temple has been built. Sundarar is said to have worshipped here first, after losing his eyesight.

It is considered special to worship Kodiyidai Nayaki here and Vadivudai Nayaki at Tiruvotriyur on full moon days.

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Vaikasi.

22.  **Tiruverkaadu** 

This Sivastalam is located close to Chennai and Poondamalli.

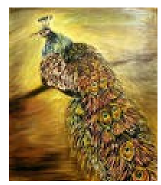
The presiding deity is Verkatteeswarar, Vedapureeswarar and the Ambal Verkanniammai, Balambikai.

The theertham is Velayudha Theertham.

Sambandar composed the Pathikam.

Legend has it that Siva is said to have blessed Agasthyar with a vision of his marriage with Parvati. It is also believed that Subramanyar is said to have worshipped Siva here after having slained the demon Sooran.

Tiruverkadu is known more for the Karumariamman temple, which attracts a large number of pilgrims. It is considered to be of significance to visit the shrines of Balambika here, Vadivudaiamman in Tiruvotriyur and Jagadambikai in Padi; on the same day Skanda sashti is celebrated on a grand scale.

23. Tirumayilai(Mylapore) 



This Siva sthalam located in the City of Chennai very well fits into the sprawling meteropolis, and is one of well-known landmarks in the heart of Mylapore.

The presiding deity is Kapaleeswarar and the Ambal Karpagambal
The sthala vriksham is Punnai
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvati (Karpakambal) in the form of a peacock – Mayil, is said to have worshipped Siva and hence gained the name Mylapore. There are several literary works associated with this hoary shrine, which remains today as a seat of Tamil culture. The Poompaavai Pathigam composed by Sambandar is associated with this temple and he is said to have brought back to life, Poompavai the daughter of a devotee of Shiva - Sivanesa Chettiar.

The annual Brahmotsavam festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Pankuni, and the procession of the 63 Nayanmars popularly called "Aruvathimoovar" festival attracts a very large number of devotees. The Teppam float festival in the large temple tank, and the biweekly Pradosham festival also draw huge crowds.

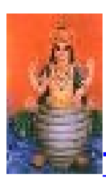
24.  Tiruvanmiyur

This Siva sthalam is located in the city of Chennai, and is one of the ancient shrines.
enshrining Tyagarajar in a separate shrine within the large temple complex. Tiruvanmiyur, Tirumayilai and Tiruvotriyur are the three Shivastalams sung by the Nayanmars, in and around the metropolis.

The presiding deity is Marundeeswarar, Oushadapureeswarar and the Ambal Chokka Nayaki, Tripura Sundari
The sthala vriksham is Vanni and the Theertham Siva Ganga
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Valmiki Maharishi is said to have worshipped Siva here. Kamadhenu is said to have poured her milk over the Sivalingam and offered worship. Shiva is also known as Marundeeswarar, or Oshadeeswarar. The Vedas and the Devas are also said to have worshipped Siva here. The Ashwini twins are said to have worshipped Siva to receive the knowledge of medicinal herbs, hence the name Marundeeswarar

The Tyagaraja shrine is of great significance and the 18 Natanams of Tyagarajar is enacted during certain festive occasions. The shrine for Kala Bhairavar attracts large number of devotees.

25.  Tirukkachoor

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Chennai, near Singaperumaal Koyil.

The presiding deity is Virunditta easar, Kachabeswarar and the ambal Kanniummaiyal, Anjanakshi

The Theertham is Koorma Theertham.

Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vishnu in his Koorma Avatara is said to have worshipped Siva, seeking the celestial nectar Amritam. The name Kachur comes from the Kachaba (tortoise) form with which Vishnu worshipped Siva. It is also believed that Siva is said to have collected alms and offered a feast to Sundarar here, and hence the name Virunditta Eesar.

Brahmotsavam in the Tamil month of Chittirai, and Arudra Darisanam in the month of Markazhi are the important festivals celebrated here. The dance of Siva, Siva Tandavam is enacted during these festivals.

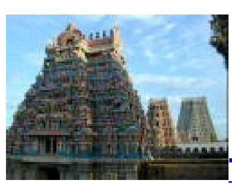
26.  **Tiruvidaichuram**

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Chingleput, enroute to Tirupporur.

The presiding deity is Idaichuranathar and the Ambal Imaiyamadakkodiyamman
The Theertham is Madhura Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Parvathi worshipped Siva at this shrine. A shiny and transparent Maragatha Shiva Lingam occupies the Sanctum here.

Panguni Uthiram, Kartikai Deepam, Arudra Darisanam and Chitra Pournami are the festivals celebrated annually here.

27.  **Tirukkalukunram**

This Sivastalam located near Mahabalipuram on the way to Chengleput.

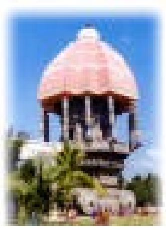
The presiding deity is Tirumalaiyaludaiyar, Vedagireeswarar and the Ambal Tirumalai Chokkanayaki, Tripurasundari
The sthala vriksham is Vaazhai and the Theertham Pakshi Theertham

Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that the four hills surrounding the shrine represent the four Vedas. Indra and Vishnu were blessed by Shiva here, hence the names Indrapuri and Narayanapuram. Two devotees in the form of birds, believed to be on their way from Kasi to Rameswaram, are still found to partake food offerings, atop the hill at a specific time each day. It is also believed that a part of the Sanjeevani hill, being taken by Hanuman, dropped at this place and the surrounding hills are presumed to be the same. It is also said that Indra in the form of lightning worships the deity at the hill temple.

Sundaramoorthy Nayanar was blessed with material wealth here.

The annual Brahmotsavam festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai. The Pushkaram festival is celebrated once in 12 years in the Sanga Theertham.

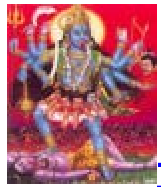
28.  **Tiru Acharapakkam**

This is a Sivastalam in the vicinity of Madurantakam near Chingleput.

The presiding deity is Aatchi Konda Nathar, Paakka Pureswarar, Aaksheeswarar, and the Ambal Balasukhambal, Sundara Nayaki
The sthala vriksham is Konrai and the Theertham Deva Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend here has it that the axle on Siva's chariot broke here as he was heading to destroy the Tripurams, reminding him of Ganesha whom he had not meditated upon prior to his setting out on this mission. Hence the name "Achu Iru Paakkam".

The annual Brahmotsavam is celebrated in the Tamil month of Chittirai, where the Tirukkalyanam is performed on the fifth day.

29.  **[Tiruvakkarai]**

This Sivastalam is in Tiruvakkarai near Mayilam and Villuppuram.

The presiding deity is Chandrasekharar and the Ambal Vadivambikai. Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Chandra is said to have worshipped Siva – Chandrasekhara. Vishnu is said to have vanquished the demon Vakrasura, and Kaali devoured the drops of blood that spilled. There are shrines for Vishnu and Kaali in this temple. The three faces of Siva here are said to have blessed Chandra, Brahma and Vishnu. There is also a shrine for Kundala Rishi.

The image of Nataraja here shows him dancing with his right foot raised. Arudra Darsanam is celebrated at this temple.

30. Arasili

This Sivastalam is located in the vicinity of Irumbai Maakalam, near Pondicherry.

**The presiding deity is Arasili Naathar and the Ambal Periya Nayaki.
The Theertham is Arasili Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.**

Vamadeva is said to have worshipped Siva at this shrine. The Siva lingam is relatively of a very small size.

31.  **Irumbai Maakalam**

This Shivastalam is located close to Pondicherry.

**The presiding deity is Maakaaleswarar and the Ambal Kuyilmozhi Ammai.
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.**

The legend has it that Siva and Parvathi were worshipped by Subramanya.

The shrine to Subramanyar here is of significance, and Panguni Uthiram is celebrated in splendor here. Mondays in the month of Kartikai are also considered to be special.

Tuluva Naadu - Karnataka (1 Temple)

1. Gokarna (Gokarnam)

Gokarna is near Kollur on the westcoast of Karnataka, enshrining the Aatma Lingam Mahabaleshwar.

It is regarded as one of the seven Mukti Sthalas of Karnataka. The other Muktisthalas are Udupi, Kollur, Subramanya, Kumbasi, Kodeshwara, Sankaranarayana. All these shrines are also known as Parasurama Kshetras created on the land reclaimed from the sea by Parasurama.

The presiding deity is Mahabaleswarar and the Ambal Gokarna nayaki
The Theertham is Koti Theertham
Sambandar and Appar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Vinayaka is said to have tricked the demon king Ravana (Maha Bala) into leaving behind a Sivalingam at this shetram. In spite of the might exerted by Ravana, the Sivalingam stayed fixed, hence the name Mahabaleshwar. The pull exerted by Ravana, is said to have caused the Sivalingam to resemble the shape of a cow's ear and hence the name Gokarnam.

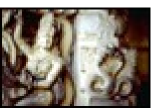
The six foot tall Sivalingam of Mahabaleswar is enclosed inside a square Saligrama Peetham. A golden rekha on the peetham, and a small hole in its middle permits devotees to have a glimpse of the top of the Aatma Lingam. The full form of the Siva lingam can be seen only once in 40 years, when the Ashta bandana Kumbhahishekam is performed. The image of Vinayaka at this shrine bears a dent, said to have been caused when Ravana, enraged at the loss of the Atma Lingam hit him.

It is customary here to have a dip in the sea and then worship a Sivalingam made out of sand, before worshipping at the temple. Maha Sivaratri is of great significance in this shrine.

Vada Naadu (6 Temples)

1.  **Tirupparuppadam – Srisailam** 

Sri Sailam, referred to as Tirupparuppatham in the Tevaram hymns, is located near Nandyal, in Andhra Pradesh. It is a venerated Sivastalam, considered to be one of the 12 Jyotirlinga Shrines spread all over India.



The presiding deity is Mallikarjuneswarar and the Ambal Bhramarambika
The Theertham is Paalaazhi
Sambandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

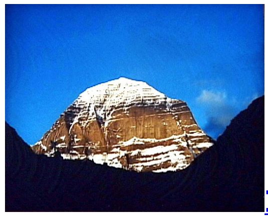
The Srisailam temple is also the seat of Mahakali in the form of Bhramaramba. It is said that Vrishabha, the sacred bull of Lord Shiva performed penance here. Lord Shiva appeared before him, with his consort Parvati in the forms of Mallikarjuna and Bharamaramba. It is believed that the Siva lingam in the temple is the manifestation of the Lord Himself.

It is also believed that at Sriparvata on the Srisailam Mountain, the resplendent Lord Siva abides with his consort Parvati, immersed in divine delight. Brahma also stays there along with other Gods. It is supposed that a bath in the sacred lake, with purity and self-control of mind, has the same efficacy as the performance of an Asvamedha sacrifice. Not only the pilgrim is benefited, but his entire race is also liberated.

**During his stay here, Adisankara composed those exquisite verses in praise of Mallikarjunaswamy in his celebrated work Sivanandalahari, as well in praise of Goddess Bhramaramba, in his Bhramaramba Ashtaka.**

This is a vast temple with several gopurams, on a hill, which is said to be a manifestation of Nandi

Siva is worshipped here in his form of Lord Mallikarjuna, and Shakti, his consort, as Sri Bharamaramba Devi.

2. Indraneelaparvatam

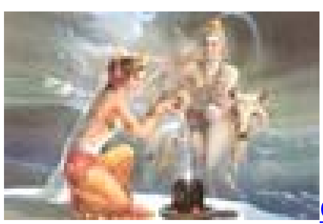
This Siva sthalam is in the Himalayas near Katmandu in Nepal.

The presiding deity is Neelachalanathar and the Ambal Neeelambika
The Theertham is Indra Theertham
Sambandar composed the Pathigam.

Legend has it that Indra is believed to have worshipped Siva here. Arjuna obtained the Pasupatha Astram after offering prayers to Lord Siva.

This shrine has not been visited by any of the Nayanmars, although Sambandar has sung its praises from Kalahasti.

This towering peak of 6000 Meters tall can be reached by a long trek from Kathmandu. The peak is revered as the manifestation of Siva and a green rock atop is revered as that of Ambal.

3. Gowrikund - Anekatangavadam

Gowrikund is a popular Himalayan shrine at about 4000 Meters above sea level near Rishikesh.

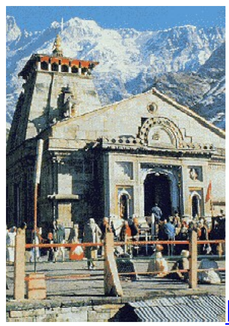
The presiding deity is Arul Manna Nayakar and the Ambal Manonmani, Gowri

It is believed that Gowri (Parvati) meditated upon Siva. Gowrikund has several hot springs, and Gowri is believed to have taken a bath in one of the springs at this shetram after giving birth to Kartikeya

(Subramanaya). Surya and Chandra are also believed to have worshipped Siva here.

Legend also has it that Siva and Parvati were married at Triyuginarayan, south of this place. The fire kindled during their wedding is said to be burning even to this date at Agnikund. Siva is believed to have cut off the head of Parvati's son Ganesh and then revived him to life with the head of an elephant, and at this place there is the temple to Mundkatta Ganesh – Ganesh without the head.

Although none of the Nayanmars have visited Gowrikund, Sambandar has sung of Gowrikundam from Kalahasti.

4.  **Kedarnath**

Located on the Himalayas at about 12,000 feet, this Siva sthalam is considered to be one of the most sacred pilgrimage centers of the country. It is revered as one of the Twelve Jyotirlingams.

The presiding deity is Kedara Nathar and the Ambal Gowri
The Theertham is Mandakini
Sambandar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam on this shetram from Kalahasti.

Legend has it that Nara and Narayana - two incarnations of Vishnu practiced severe penances at Badrikashramam, in front of a Sivalingam fashioned out of earth. When Siva appeared in front of them, they requested him to take up a permanent abode as a Jyotirlingam at Kedarnath.

Legend also has it that Parvati worshipped Kedareeshwar to be united with Siva as Ardhanareeswarar. Kedara Munivar is said to have established this shrine, which was visited by the Pancha Pandavas.

Tradition has it that pilgrims first visit Yamunotri and Gangotri and bring with them the holy waters from the sources of the rivers Yamuna and Ganga to offer abhishekams to Kedareshwarar.

The temple at Kedarnath enshrining the Jyotirlingam of Siva, opens only when the sun enters the zodiac sign of Aries and it is closed when the sun enters Scorpio.

5.  **Kailasam – Tiru Kailayam**

The towering 22,028 ft high peak Mt. Kailash in the Himalayas, 25 miles north of the Mansarovar Lake. It is an arduous trek to Kailash through the snow clad Himalayas. The Tibetians refer to Kailash as Kangrimpoche (Jewel of Snow).

The presiding deity is Kailasa Nathar, Siva and the Ambal Parvati.

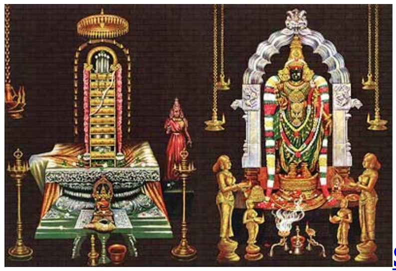
Sambandar, appar and Sundarar have composed the Pathigam.

Hindus regard Mt. Kailash as an embodiment of Siva and Parvati. Mount Kailash is considered as the abode of Siva, and it appears like a giant Sivalingam placed in a 16 petalled lotus.

There are two lakes here; one the Rakshasa Tal, where Ravana is believed to have performed penances to Lord Siva, and the other the Mansarovar, being considered as one of the 51 Sakthi Peetams.

Tirunavukkarasar on his pilgrimage to Kailasam, is said to have been transported by a divine intervention to Tiruvaiyaru, considered as Dakshina Kailasam. Karaikkal Ammaiyar is said to have started trekking to Kailasam but returned to Tiruvalangadu.

Pilgrims go to Kailash via Lipu Lekh pass. They first go to Tonakpur, then through Pithorgarh, Askot and Dharchula and Garbiang the last town in the Indian Territory. The Lipu Lekh pass is 16750 feet above sea level, and is at the Tibet frontier. Manasoravar is 34 miles away from here. 12 miles from Taklakot in Bhutan, a Budhist center. Yet another route is from Haridwar via the Niti pass.

6.  [Sri Kalahasti]

Sri Kalahasti is one of the most revered Saivite shrines near Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh.

The presiding deity is Kaalahasti Naathar and the Ambal Vandaar Kuzhalaal, Gnana Prasoonambika
The sthala vriksham is Vilvam and the Theertham Swarnamukhi
Sambaandar, Appar and Sundarar composed the Pathigam.

The Sivalingam is shaped very slim and is covered with kavacham. The oil lamp in the sanctum can be seen fluttering, indicating that this is the panchabhoota sthala of Vayu (wind).

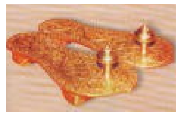
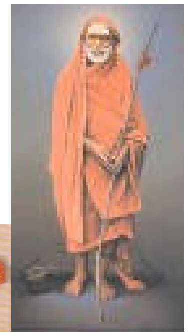
Legend has it that Lord Siva is worshipped here in the form of Vayu Linga. The legend says that Sri (spider), Kala (cobra) and Hasti (elephant) worshipped Lord Siva here and attained Moksha. Hence this place is known as Srikalahasti. Kannappa Nayanar (a tribal hunter) attained salvation in this place by offering his eyes to Lord Siva.

This is considered to be a Navagrahastalam where Rahu and Ketu worshipped Siva, and it is believed prayers offered at this shetram during Rahu kalam will ward off Navagraha dosham.

Sambandar composed hymns in honour of Kailasam, and Gowrikundam from this shetram.

Sivaratri is conducted here on a very grand scale.

Hara Hara Sankara Jaya Jaya Sankara
Om Nama Sivaya



Jai Sri Gurave Namaha